

AWARE

A NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE
DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
An Affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women since 1928

2025 WINTER ISSUE

DCCW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annette Pressley — St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Heights

tennis1054@aol.com

As many of you may or, may not know, I was installed as president of the DCCW in November, after our dear friend, Carol Harley resigned due to health issues. During this time, our beloved Director of Meeting, Becky Hicks, left us to become an angel in heaven. To say it has been an adjustment is an understatement. It has been overwhelming. The largest task is planning our 2025 Annual Convention in April. The amount of support I am receiving from my sister Catholic women is heartwarming and much appreciated.

By the time you receive this you should have received your Call to Convention with all the information needed. Please get this to your members as soon as possible so we can all enjoy a prayerful and enlightening Convention. As we begin this Jubilee year as Pilgrims of Hope, with words from Pope Francis, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..." This led me to think how hope and prayer are different but so connected. Hope and prayer are both related to a desire for something to happen, but they differ in a few ways: 1) Focus - hope can be more general, while prayer is usually directed towards a higher power (For example, you might hope for good weather but pray for healing or guidance). 2) Effort - hope involves effort, while prayer involves God's grace (For example, you can hope that a factory's dispatch schedule is honored because you can work for it, but you can only pray for a friend in the ICU to get well). 3) Expectation - hope is an expectation and anticipation that rests in what we believe. It's more substantial than mere wishful thinking. 4) Relationship - prayer is a relationship and communication with God. It's an act of faith, and its expectation is shaped by hope. 5) patience - praying with hope involves patiently waiting for God to act. It's praying consistently with optimism and confidence that God hears our prayers. Some food for thought.

Submitted by:
Annette Pressley
President, DCCW

REJOICE IN HOPE,
BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION,
BE CONSTANT IN
Prayer. Romans 12:12

ANY UPDATES TO DCCW BOARD, DEANERY AND PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION, MUST BE EMAILED TO THE DCCW SECRETARY, TISHA RAMOS-YARBER, ASAP!

Patricia (Tisha) Ramos-Yarber

TISHA WILL FORWARD UPDATES TO NCCW

*Don't Miss Important Year-Round
Communications from DCCW & NCCW*

INDIVIDUAL NCCW MEMBERS NEED TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR PROFILE ONLINE OR CONTACT NCCW DIRECTLY

THE AWARE NEWSLETTER

Susan Espinoza, Editor
susane0101@gmail.com

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All email addresses are kept confidential and used for DCCW use only.

DCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
Father Ariel Durian- St. Peter, American Fork
arieldurian@outlook.com



Women as Co-Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year

The Jubilee Year, themed “*Pilgrims of Hope*,” calls all people to journey together toward renewal, reconciliation, and a deeper encounter with God. Within this sacred pilgrimage, women stand as vital co-pilgrims, shaping the journey through their resilience, faith, and transformative presence.

Throughout history, women have embodied hope in action, from biblical figures like Mary and Ruth to modern-day leaders in faith and justice. Their lives reflect the essence of pilgrimage: perseverance through trials, trust in God’s providence, and a commitment to building a better future.

As nurturers of families and communities, women foster the spirit of solidarity that the Jubilee emphasizes. Their roles as caregivers, advocates, and leaders inspire unity and healing in a divided world. Whether standing alongside the poor, championing environmental care, or advocating for justice, women’s contributions align deeply with the Jubilee’s call for societal transformation.

In this year of grace, women remind us that hope is both a gift and a responsibility. As co-pilgrims, they lead by example, showing that the journey of faith is enriched when all voices walk together. May we honor their witness and walk in step with them, as pilgrims of hope in a world yearning for renewal.



**DCCW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/
PRESIDENT-ELECT**
Susan Porter — St. John the Baptist, Draper
portersm57@gmail.com

Looking at the snow-covered ground, it is surreal to think that just a few weeks ago our family was ringing in the New Year on the beach in Phuket, Thailand.

Although Thailand has even fewer Catholics percentage wise than Utah, the beauty of God's creation was evident in the colorful sunrises and friendly people. Several days later, we spent a couple of nights at a hotel near the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Hong Kong, the city where our son has resided for over seven years. There was a tiny plaque inside our room that bore the symbol of the 2025 Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope and a paragraph written in Chinese characters. Although I was unable to read it, I imagined it contained a message of hope from Pope Francis. Suddenly, I didn't feel so far from home (or Rome).

In his book, 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory, Matthew Kelly defines life itself as a pilgrimage, "a spiritual journey to a sacred destination," and he poses the question, "are you going to be a pilgrim or a tourist?" He describes tourists as wanting everything to go as planned; whereas pilgrims look for signs if it doesn't and ask, "what message is God trying to convey?" They go looking for meaning, have concern for the needs of others, and count their blessings. In one of his recent Dynamic Catholic daily reflections, he says that you don't need to take an exotic trip to a distant land to find yourself; we are where we are right now for a reason, and service is the way to discover that reason. Another reflection was about the early Christians and community. While he admits solitude is vital in any Christian's life, he adds that faith flourishes in community as our lives are enriched by growing closer to our brothers and sisters who are also seeking to live out their faith. These same thoughts led to my decision to accept the nomination for 1st VP-President Elect.

As Convention Co-Chair, the 1st VP is responsible for the printing of the convention booklet, the Woman of the Year banquet program, the annual report, convention evaluation forms and resolutions. This includes obtaining advertisements for the convention booklet to help defray printing costs. Advertising comes from many sources: businesses, congratulatory messages from our Women's and Knights of Columbus Councils, ads honoring the Women of the Year and in memory of loved ones and Council Sisters we have lost. Instructions and pricing for placing the ads are included in the Call to Convention packet and posted on the DCCW website www.dccwutah.org.

Our gathering each April for convention is similar in ways to a pilgrimage. We come together hoping to enrich our spiritual lives and to grow closer to God and one another. But because there is so much planning and preparation in the months ahead, we also may encounter some "grumbling tourists" along the way, including ourselves. We have been **Called to An Encounter with Jesus**, so let us remain patient, prayerful, and look for those "signs."

DCCW IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Barb Kerouac
St. Martin de Porres, Taylorsville
barb0235@msn.com

Happy New Year, Pope Francis has
proclaimed 2025 Jubilee Year
"Pilgrims of HOPE"

Hope (Catechism of the Catholic Church)

1817 Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."⁸⁴ "The Holy Spirit . . . he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."⁸⁵



1820 Christian hope unfolds from the beginning of Jesus' preaching in the proclamation of the beatitudes. The *beatitudes* raise our hope toward heaven as the new Promised Land; they trace the path that leads through the trials that await the disciples of Jesus. But through the merits of Jesus Christ and of his Passion, God keeps us in the "hope that does not disappoint."⁸⁸ Hope is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul . . . that enters . . . where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf."⁸⁹ Hope is also a weapon that protects us in the struggle of salvation: "Let us . . . put on the breastplate of faith and charity, and for a helmet the hope of salvation."⁹⁰ It affords us joy even under trial: "Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation."⁹¹ Hope is expressed and nourished in prayer, especially in the Our Father, the summary of everything that hope leads us to desire.

We are all Pilgrims of Hope. My hope is that we are all brave enough to carry out this mission, to proclaim by our actions and example a sense of HOPE to all we encounter. We have the special privilege of gaining a Jubilee Indulgence during this year. Check out the Diocesan website to find the stipulations in gaining one.

As Pilgrims of Hope, I am hoping you join us at the 2025 DCCW Annual convention April 27-28 at Little America. It is always a great way to renew your HOPE in the camaraderie of Catholic Women from around the state. We have had many changes from last years convention. Carol Harley stepped down as President due to health concerns. Thank you Carol for your dedication to the DCCW, you will be in our prayers. Annette Pressley stepped into the Presidents seat in October. Susan Porter graciously accepted the position of Vice president in December. Both ladies are very qualified to lead the DCCW the next 2 years. Thank you. They both have worked tirelessly to make this year's convention a great success. PLEASE join us in April, the convention is always a fabulous way to renew and refresh your commitment to your faith in all aspects of spiritual growth, service to our communities, and generous giving to those in need. Come, answer the call to have,,,,,

An Encounter With
JESUS

SEE you at Convention April 27-28,2025.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (NCCW)

Amy Kennedy — President-Elect
Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City
amy.kennedy@comcast.net

Make a Resolution to Get the Most Out of Your NCCW Membership

Have you given up on your New Year's resolutions? Do not worry if you have given up on yours because here is an idea for a resolution you can start right now, and that will be easy and fun to keep: make a resolution to get the most out of your NCCW individual membership. If you are not an individual NCCW member, head to www.nccw.org and join today. For less than \$5 a month, you can receive all membership benefits, including access to the Members Only section of the NCCW website.

Here are three quick tips to get you going:

1. After you log in to the NCCW website, select Members Only Resources from the list on the right-hand side of the page and start exploring. From prayer services to free publications, you will surely find something to enhance your faith.
2. Join in live or catch a replay of our Member Calls. These calls are a fantastic opportunity to connect with other members, share experiences, and learn from each other. Members get reminder emails for the calls so that you can get them on your calendar. Replays are a click away on the Members Only page.
3. Wear your love of NCCW on your sleeve - literally! NCCW members can order clothing items from Lands End featuring the NCCW logo.

If you are already an NCCW individual member, consider sharing that experience with others by gifting a membership to a friend or family member. The young women in your life can take advantage of High School and College members at a discounted rate. Resolve to use your NCCW membership to its fullest and spread the message!



SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ...

To unite Catholic women's organizations and individual Catholic women in the state of Utah, Diocese of Salt Lake City, in purpose, through **support**, **empowerment**, and **education** in the areas of **spirituality**, **leadership**, and **service** and respond with Christian values to current issues in the church and society.

DCCW DIRECTORS OF MEETINGS

Marcie Downs, Co-Chair
marciedowns51@gmail.com

Jamie Beert, Co-Chair
beert2012@gmail.com

Happy New Year to each of you! We all know that last year was a tough year with many illnesses, surgeries, and losses in our DCCW family. In this new year, we will remember those we lost, pray for those battling illnesses and count our Blessings every day. Losing Becky so unexpectedly and quickly was a huge shock to us all. Marcie and I are working diligently to keep the Convention planning and coordination moving forward in a way that would make Becky proud. Our goal is to have a great convention for all of you and to honor Becky's memory and all the hard work she put into the Conventions and CCW organizations.

We are once again holding the DCCW Convention at Little America in downtown Salt Lake City (500 South Main Street) on April 26-27, 2025. This year the attendees will be making their OWN Hotel reservations directly with Little America. The Garden King Room Rates are \$89/night (inside the Hotel to the West) and the Tower King Room Rates are \$99/night. With the additional room taxes, the rates will be approximately \$102 and \$113, respectively. There are NO double bed hotel rooms available for this weekend (A nationwide volleyball tournament is in town same weekend, and they have reserved all the double bed hotel rooms within a 30 mile radius of SLC). There will be a Group Link and Instructions on how to reserve your room in the Call to Meeting documents. The deadline to make your reservation to get the discounted group rate is March 25, 2025.

The team met to determine the menu choices and pricing for the convention packets. This year's dinner choices will be Dill & Caper Salmon or Short Ribs. Below are the Package Prices:

- Package A - \$282.00 (Full Convention – Saturday, Banquet, Sunday)
- Package B – \$126.00 (Saturday only, bus to Mass – NO banquet)
- Package C – \$96.00 (Banquet only)
- Package D - \$75.00 (Sunday only)

We will be moving the Parish CCW Posters into the ballroom. Please bring your own easels to display your posters. We are not allowed to hang anything on the walls.

We continue to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jonathan Bakker, Sales Manager, and Megan Buttars, Convention Services Manager, Little America Hotel – they are committed to making this year's Convention experience even better.

Blessings to each of you,
Marcie and Jamie

DCCW WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Streker, Co-Chair
strekerj@gmail.com

Margaret Sanchez, Co-Chair
megsancho0358@gmail.com

Nominate Your Woman for the 96th Annual Woman of the Year Banquet at the 2025 Annual DCCW Convention!

It's that time again to recognize the woman who has gone above and beyond in service to your parish! We are excited to announce the upcoming **Woman of the Year** award, to be presented at the **DCCW Convention on April 26-27th** at the Little America Hotel. Your **Woman of the Year** will be honored at the convention banquet on **Saturday evening!**

This prestigious award honors a woman who has selflessly contributed to the growth and well-being of her parish. Whether she works quietly behind the scenes or is actively involved in parish ministries and organizations, her dedication deserves to be recognized. The nominee may also include women who maintain the church, ensuring that the physical space is welcoming for all, or an older woman who can no longer serve but whose years of past contributions continue to inspire us.

To nominate a deserving woman, please submit a **brief 100-word bio** about her qualifications. The bio should highlight her contributions, dedication, and the impact she's had on the parish community.

Important Details: Deadline is March 1st please send the bio and a **photo** in a **Word document** format to Jennifer Streker, 4997 W 4750 South, West Haven, UT 84401 or **email** to strekerj@gmail.com . Detailed **Woman of the Year Program** information will be included in the **Call to Convention** packet, which will be distributed to affiliate presidents or pastors. If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact: **Jennifer Streker** 801-540-4342 or **Margaret Sanchez** 801-388-6841 – Woman of the Year Co-chairs.

We look forward to honoring the women who have made such a positive impact in our parish community!



SERVICE COMMISSION
Monica Rich, Chair
St. Rose of Lima, Layton
Monicar.rich@comcast.net

2025 Convention Service Project We will continue to collect our usual items: rosaries, eyeglasses, cancelled stamps (no Forever Flag), pull tabs, mini hygiene products. Please collect and bring these to the DCCW convention. There will be collection boxes for these items.

We are also collecting items for: The Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Monastery In kind donations: Laundry soap, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, gift cards, pocket size tissue and 8 oz canning jars.



Their mission is driven by the God-given gift of dignity in each person. Give Me a Chance empowers low-income women by teaching marketable skills & providing opportunities that lead to self-sufficiency, while also enriching children's lives through education. They have After-school program & Summer Camp, Sewing & Quilting classes, English as a Second Language classes and Music classes at their Ogden Location. They operate a food bank "Center of Hope Food Pantry". Currently, under the direction of Sr. Germaine Sarrazin, they serve 150+ families a month in many capacities and seek to bring dignity to all and respond to every human need. In kind donations: toilet paper, laundry soap, body soap, garbage bags, hygiene pads, diapers size 3 and 4.

Monetary donations: <http://www.givemeachanceutah.org/support/donate/>



SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Gracemarie Belvedere , Chair
St. Marguerite, Tooele
gracemariebelvedere@gmail.com

Marilyn Granato , Co-Chair
St. Marguerite, Tooele
marilyngranato@gmail.com

✽ THE YEAR AHEAD ✽

May God bless and protect us in this new year!
Not by shielding us from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening us to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making our path easy,
But by making us sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from us,
But by taking fear from our heart;
Not by granting us unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping our face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making our life always pleasant,
But by showing us when people and their causes need us most,
and by making us anxious to be there to help.
God's love, peace, hope and joy to us for the year ahead.

✽ THE CATHOLIC WAY OF GREETING A NEW YEAR ✽

From the pope down to the vagrant, each of us is an individual creation, made by God. We are all unique. Incredibly, we will all be judged individually. And, as Catholics, we will be held to a higher standard. After all, we proclaim that we are part of the Mystical Body of Christ, which has the deposit of faith. No matter how we lived our lives, the common denominator for all of us will be: *How much we loved each other.*

Based on that, here are some points to consider if we focus, before all else, on pleasing God in the New Year, the Catholic way:

- Never forget that you are God's individual creation, a gift He has bestowed on the world. We must be humbled, for without Him, we are nothing.
- Be happy with who and what you are.
- The choices you make are your responsibility.
- Sometimes, NOT getting what you want or what you think you need is a blessing.
- Always count your blessings, not your troubles.
- Prayer is the most powerful of weapons and is your greatest ally in all diversity.
- Always do your best. Your "best" is all God expects from each of us.
- Don't take things too seriously, especially yourself. Each of us is a work in progress.
- The key to happiness is to give of yourself, not to "get" for yourself.
- Miracles happen; you are one — we all are one.
- Temptation is everywhere. It is okay to say "NO."
- Never fail to help a neighbor, whoever it may be, even a stranger.
- In the wise words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, "Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy."

As we all experience the "highs and lows" during this new year, let us bear the armor of the Church to shield us and the angels and saints to help us fight our battles from the evil one. Thanks be to God.

— Excerpts from Aleteia

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Gracemarie Belvedere , Chair
St. Marguerite, Tooele
gracemariebelvedere@gmail.com

Marilyn Granato , Co-Chair
St. Marguerite, Tooele
marilyngranato@gmail.com

PRAYERS NEEDED SEND ME YOUR PRAYER

The Prayer Room for the 2025 DCCW Convention will be filled with prayers from parishes and missions throughout our Diocese.

We, the Spirituality Commission, want to include your favorite and most powerful prayer. Perhaps one that moves you and helps you get through each day.

Prayers are needed for the categories of:

Healing, illness and/or suffering

Vocations — Those discerning their vocation and those already ministering in their vocations: Priesthood, Diaconate, Consecrated Life, Marriage and Single Life.

Memorial for the loss of loved ones

Encouraging and uplifting prayers

(Our Lady of Good Council Prayer will already be in the prayer room.)

Each prayer will be framed and at the bottom it will state, “Submitted by: The CCW at Your Parish/Mission Name.” Only one prayer per parish/mission. If your prayer is a duplicate of one already received, you will be given an opportunity to submit an alternate.

Send your prayers, along with the name of the parish/mission, via email or mail to the address below. Do not send them via text.

Gracemarie Belvedere
753 Country Club Drive
Stansbury Park, UT 84074
gracemariebelvedere@gmail.com

For questions or concerns, please contact me via email or call (760) 617-0050. If I am unable to answer, please leave a message with your name and number, so I may return your call.

Thank you.

DCCW MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE TEAM

Michael O'Shea, Co-Chair
St. Anthony of Padua, Helper
msmichaeloshea@gmail.com

Bonnie Siegrist, Co-Chair
Blessed Sacrament, Sandy
utahbonnie@comcast.net



It seems so many affiliates across the country are having problems with membership. Luckily (and usually), ladies will gladly attend events and fundraisers, but attend meetings or be a leader??? No-o-o way. It wasn't always like this though. It's been a steady decline and sad for us "old-timers" to see. Older women are retiring after years of service. Younger women? Well, they have their own reasons for not attending meetings or taking on leadership roles. Young or old, women are on burn-out for lack of others to join and take over. Remember the adage "many hands make light work?"

If you're reading the AWARE, odds are you are an active member of your parish women's organization, and we are so thankful for your commitment. You know what Council has meant to you and what you mean to it. However, with less and less active members, we get in a rut and simply struggle to fit in "all the things" we normally do and hope for someone new to come up with new ideas. So, this year how about we make it a goal to focus on the future of our women's groups and ways to get new members with new ideas? But, how do we get women excited to join us in our mission -- to support, empower and educate in spirituality, leadership, and service. What do you think? We all need those many hands...those ideas...those beautiful women. Right?



Regain,
Retain, and
GROW

One suggestion, as we start a new year, is to survey the women in your parish - not just the ones who attend meetings. Even if you only get a handful of responses, it's a start and will give you an idea of problems that may be fixable. NCCW has a booklet called **Regain, Retain, and GROW** for your Council with outstanding ideas to help. For affiliated CCW's the booklet is available for free on the NCCW website. Just log-in and under *What Would You Like To Do*, scroll down to *Member Resources*. In the extensive list of material available to you, you'll find the booklet under *Resources*. If your ladies group is not a current affiliate, let us know, and we'll get you a copy. All we're asking is for you to try some of their ideas. The future of our CCW's depends on each of us. And, since the flow of communication is key, let us know what you did and what worked.

Another suggestion for getting women more excited to join your group is to personally invite them to our annual convention in April. It's a great show of our sisterhood sharing a fun-filled, uplifting weekend of spirituality, informative speakers, silent auctions, raffles, and fun! Attending is so personally rewarding and enriching to Catholic woman, especially so for first-timers. The number one comment everyone says about the DCCW convention experience is the joyful feeling they get being in a room full of other Catholic woman from throughout Utah. Remember, we have a scholarship program to assist in registration, and some of our Councils even subsidize their ladies. (Hint).

If you're able to attend the convention (fingers crossed and praying you are able), we will have an MDR table at the convention with samples.



WANT TO SEE YOUR COUNCIL GROW?? I

INVITE ONE NEW PERSON TO EVERY CCW MEETING AND EVENT .

Inviting ladies to join your Council is offering them an opportunity to enhance their lives while giving service to their church and community. It can be life changing. Our attitude, enthusiasm, and love of Council is contagious and encourages the stranger to attend a meeting or event. Think about all the wonderful things council does and all it accomplishes. We love Council, love spending time together and find our accomplishments fulfilling and meaningful!

Jeannie Illian, Former NCCW LTD Program Consultant

AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR

AWARD COMMITTEE

Patricia Voorhes, Committee Chair
St. Vincents Parish, Murray
patricia.nccw@gmail.com

Barb Kerouac, Committee Co-Chair
St. Martin de Porres Parish, Taylorsville
barb0235@msn.com

2025 Affiliate of the Year Award

The Affiliate of the Year Award Nomination information and form will be sent out to affiliated parish presidents in January of 2025. If you are an affiliated parish and meet the award criteria listed below, please consider nominating your parish for this award. The nomination packet will be posted on the DCCW website. FYI: NCCW will be consulted on February 1st as to the status of the SLC DCCW affiliation report.

AWARD CRITERIA

Nomination should *reflect* the following criteria:

- An affiliate must be a DCCW/NCCW affiliate in good standing, actively involved in affiliate work
- An affiliate who has made a significant contribution on the diocesan, deanery, or local parish level.
- An Affiliate who has served as an outstanding role model of service to others.
- An affiliate who has shown exemplary leadership and made significant contributions to the mission, vision, and programs of DCCW.
- An affiliate who reflects the Gospel values of justice and peace.
- An affiliate who supports the gifts of a multi-cultural church and who enables others to share their gifts in their affiliate work.
- An affiliate who serves as a model of collaboration with others in the diocese and parish.
- Nominations may be updated and re-submitted in subsequent years if the affiliate has not been chosen as the winning Affiliate of the Year for two years.
- Second & third place may reapply.
- If you have been chosen the winner, after two years, your affiliate may re-apply within the new time frame with new accomplishments, such as, increased membership, developed new programs, new community involvement, etc.

Nominations will be accepted February 1, 2025, through March 1, 2025, by E-Mail only to Patricia.nccw@gmail.com. A “blind” review process will be used with each nomination package being assigned a number before I send the packets to the DCCW Past Presidents who will select the 2025 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place recipients. The top 3 finalists will be contacted prior to the DCCW convention, and the winner will be announced at the convention.

Patricia Voorhes
Affiliate of the Year Award Committee Chair
801-712-5792

Patricia.nccw@gmail.com

Barb Kerouac
Affiliate of the Year Award Committee Co-Chair.
801-964-6512

Barb0235@msn.com

DCCW LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Donna Murphy, Chair
St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Hts.

Brandy Farmer, Co-Chair
St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Hts.

The 2025 Legislative Session will start on Tuesday Jan. 21, 2025 and will end on March 7, 2025. I will be finishing up my last year as the President of Women's State Legislative Council (WSLC) of Utah this spring. We are a bipartisan group and 105 years old this year. We had our first meeting on January 15, 2025 in the Aspen Room of the Senate Building at the Utah State Capitol. My mission statement as President of Women's State Legislative Council has been "Caring to Make a Difference" because our members take time to be engaged and to hold legislators responsible to bills they are sponsoring and to understand constituent concerns. This is a way to improve government by wider participation and grassroots advocacy. Our WSLC website is www.wslcofutah.org.

We have 5 Legislative Study Committees: 1.Education, 2. Energy/Natural Resources/Agricultural & Environment, 3.Health & Human Services/Retirement & Independent Entities, 4.Business/Labor/Public Utilities & Technology/Workforce Services/Community & Economic Development and 5.Judiciary/Law Enforcement & Criminal Justice/Political Subdivisions, Revenue &Taxation/Transportation/Government Operations. We will be using interns from the University of Utah Hinckley Institute of Politics to help Directors with their legislative study committee work .

There are many issues in this upcoming legislative session related to immigration enforcement within the Judiciary system, coming down from the federal government. There are some domestic violence and victim protection bills, one is related to victims not being mandated to take a polygraph test. There are many education bills surrounding charter schools and parent choice as well as curriculum in both public education and higher education. There are also issues related to Natural Resources to help with our water supply and climate change issues as we all pray for the devastation of the recent fires in LA, California area. There are continuous bills related to health care and Medicaid issues for which we need to advocate for more funding. As Catholics we also need to be aware of many issues including sex trafficking bills to protect the vulnerable population. It is our civic Catholic duty to become more responsible and involved to advocate for the less fortunate people who are unable to advocate for themselves.

There is a March for Life on Capitol Hill hosted by Pro-Life Utah on Saturday, Jan 25th with a 10:30 AM Rosary on the south side of the Capitol. This is an exciting event to be engaged in if you have never participated in any Capitol Hill events. We invite you to join us with WSLC on Wednesdays at noon until 2 PM and become more involved in the political process. Overall, WSLC is a welcoming bipartisan group who works across the aisle to get things done to help our Utah community.

On Monday Jan, 20th, there will be the presidential inauguration and we will have a peaceful transfer of power. Elections and campaigns are very hard and even harder when one loses but that is the inevitable result - someone loses and someone wins. As we prepare for a new administration, let us remember to pray for success so that we can all as constituents have a more peaceful world. There are currently more binding peace talks between Israel and Palestenians with cease fire and hostage releases. Pope Francis advocates and encourages us all for peace in the world and may we center that by having peace among ourselves and practice civility in our discourse. Try to understand different view-points as we may have more peaceful relationships with each other. President Biden in his Farewell Speech has warned us about how Oligarchy is taking shape in America so we need to be aware of the few extremely wealthy people taking over our country and a "Tech-Industrial Complex". We need to be aware of an altered reality and understand how truth truly does matter. The billionaires and corporations need to pay their fair share of taxes as we average Americans are paying our share of taxes.

May we all pray for peace and for our elected officials to do the right and just thing to keep democracy as a priority as to maintain our safety and health. Please contact your legislators this session to let them know your Catholic view-points as you can reach them via their emails posted on the website www.le.utah.gov and call them directly on their phones. Generally speaking, they like to hear from their constituents so please remember to include your home address so they know you are their constituent. Please be professional, brief, polite and ask for a response to your question or encouragement of how you want them to vote on a bill. Please note that if they are sponsoring a bill you may not agree with, then they are in an opposing viewpoint and you may be more effective in contacting your other legislator who is either a Utah State Senator or a Utah House Representative. There is another website for Catholic updates on www.dioslc.org and feel free to contact me at drmurphy21@outlook.com or call me at 801-414-4725 if I can help with any questions or ways to become more engaged. May God Bless you all and God Bless America.

EASTERN DEANERY
Becky Colombo, President
St. Anthony of Padua, Helper
beckyc144@gmail.com

Doesn't time seem to pass so very quickly?? It feels as though we blink, and it is time for another meeting report or AWARE article to write. I will not repeat myself with the happenings of the separate affiliates in our Eastern Deanery - you can read those awesome accomplishments on our DCCW website:

<http://www.dccwutah.org>.

Instead, I enjoy reading what each commission or committee chair shares in the "President's Pen" from our National Council of Catholic Women President, Beth Mahoney. If you receive this information as a member of NCCW, please try to pass on their suggestions and ideas to inspire members of our affiliates and deaneries.

- I look forward to the National Convention in Orlando Florida, August 19-23, when our very own Amy Kennedy from Salt Lake City will be installed as the NCCW President. The Theme is "Believe in the Eucharist, Blessed, Broken, Shared."
- Pope Francis opened the Jubilee Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the Jubilee Year of the Church. The theme for the year is "Pilgrims of Hope." As Catholic women, embrace this and remember can be pilgrims, and actively spread hope in our dark world.
- Go to <http://www.nccw.org> to review the resolutions passed at the 2024 NCCW Convention. One deals with mental health. Following the holidays and the dark time of the winter season, it can often bring on depression and thoughts of suicide. Be aware.
- Be strong in kindness - share a compliment, a smile, a hug, and conversation. These go a long way to a member or anyone that may be struggling.
- Keep fighting to end human trafficking. Go to <http://www.nccw.org> for resources to share with your members and do all that you can to help fight this in our world and close to home. We need to be aware of what our children are watching on the internet and their participation in gaming. Teens or younger people are groomed and sometimes trafficked in this way. Internet Safety, with Donna Rice Hughes, is available on Thursdays at 2 pm ET on Voice Radio Network.
- Contact the NCCW Leadership Training and Development Team for suggestions to help your council flourish and succeed.
- Our Lady of Good Counsel Award nominations are open to honor a qualified woman for this national award. Nominations will be accepted March 17-April 28. Only one woman is chosen for the award, during odd numbered years. If you have nominated someone in the past, review your nomination packet and resubmit if she was not chosen. We have many qualified women out there!

Thank you for being patient and reading these bullet points. I hope they spark an idea or suggestion for you to share at your affiliate or deanery meetings. Become an individual member of NCCW and enjoy the "President's Pen" in its entirety in an email sent to you personally.

See you in April at DCCW Convention!
Becky Colombo, Eastern Deanery President



SALT LAKE DEANERY
Susan Vaughn, President
St. Vincent de Paul, Holladay
susanevaughn@comcast.net

Cathedral Women's Society

The CWS has met monthly this fall.

Activities that the CWS has participated in include the collection of money to purchase grocery gift cards. CWS was able to purchase enough cards so that all residents at a 35 unit facility for disabled, chronically homeless could all receive one.

The CWS continues to man coffee and donuts hour one Sunday a month, but it is still a struggle to get volunteers.

At the December meeting, members brought candy to fill piñatas for Las Posadas. Women also helped serve and clean up for the festivities.

The next meeting is January 11th. Two people who are being sponsored for the Seek Conference will speak. Reported by Maureen Gardner

Catholic Women's League

The CWL did not meet during December. At the November board meeting 300 children's books were collected for the Crossroads Urban Center, the Italian American Civic League and the St. Vincent de Paul homeless shelter for their sub for Santa events. Also collected and delivered were many canned tuna, meat, and veggies to the INN Between. At the January board meeting we will officially collect canned veggies and fruit for the INN Between.

On January 11, 2025, we had approximately 40 women at the CWL 2nd Annual Charcuterie and Valentine's card making party. 90 Valentine cards were turned in for the Veterans program.

We had First Friday Mass at Sacred Heart. Submitted by Narda Nordell

St. Olaf

Leading the last hour of First Friday Adoration and reciting the rosary.

Council Weekend October 27th - handed out Council fliers, schedule for the year, committee opportunities, recited rosary prior to 11:30 Mass

Weekly coffee and donuts.

Created a Council of Women banner

We have established a website www.stolafccw.org and we are publishing our information on it. We linked it with the church website, DCCW, and NCCW.

Nov 23 - Ladies of Charity Co-Op Dinner Fundraiser - We provided dinner of pulled pork, rolls, salad, green bean casserole and the Ladies of Charity sold baked goods and handmade wooden cutting boards (donated by spouse) after the Saturday Mass. We asked for donations which paid for our expenses and were able to donate an additional \$100 to the Ladies of Charity .

Stocking Stuffer - Dec 7 - A potluck was enjoyed with the Council providing ham and hot chocolate. Parishioners donated from a list of items and money. The items were sorted and packaged as gift bowls to be given out at the Ladies of Charity Food Pantry by parishioners. Santa came and kids all got to sit on his lap. Over 80 bowls were donated.

Bunco - Preparing to begin playing games quarterly

Secret Santa - Gifts for a few parishioners that need a little extra love

SALT LAKE DEANERY

Susan Vaughn, President

CONTINUED:

St. Olaf (continued):

Epiphany Celebration - January 4th 6:30pm - Parish wide event co-chaired by one of the Council members. Potluck with pulled pork donated by a parishioner. The Council worked in the kitchen: refilling pulled pork, buns, cutting and serving king cakes and cleaning up after.

Feb 22 - Our annual luncheon fundraiser (Tea Party)

March 29 - Deanery Spring Luncheon - St Olaf Hosting/Our Lady of Lourdes Co-Host

April - DCCW Convention - St Olaf Hospitality Hostesses

St. Patrick

We continue to support kitchen help with funeral luncheons. We had a mass and light reception and Parish fundraiser for the dedication of St. Joseph our new Education building. CCW jointly with Knights of Columbus purchased appliances for the new building.

We have held 3 nighttime bingo fundraiser and raffle.

We donated \$500.00 to Deacon Sefo family for the funeral.

We decorated the hall for Christmas Children's Pageant, with dinner, Santa, and Parish Christmas party. We filled 100 treat bags for the children.

We did a sub for Santa for about 40 children of the dads at the men's homeless shelter.

we donated a turkey for the religious ed turkey bingo fundraiser.

And we continue to run a bingo the first Saturday of the month as the parish fundraiser.

Submitted by Cynthia Acosta

St. Vincent de Paul

Nov.-We had an evening with our Deacon, and he answered questions about our religion.

Dec.-Christmas get together and donated coats, food and clothing. Prayed the rosary in front of our Nativity Scene.

Jan.-At our meeting we gathered money and items for the Other Side Academy. Several residents and employees attended our meeting and shared their stories with us. They were able to explain the program and answered questions for us.

Feb.-WE will have our Bunco Fundraiser on the 8th at 2:00 p.m. in the Benvegnu Center.

Submitted by Mindi Allen

Our Lady of Lourdes in Magna

The CCW at Our Lady of Lourdes in magna have had quite a bit of events this past couple of months. We had the Diocesan Youth Rally in November and participated in a Notre Dame class, Theology of the Mass. We hosted the Advent Retreat also.

In December we did a group rosary for the novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December and hosted a posada for the parish. We also hosted Bambanelli Sunday where we had a special blessing for our baby Jesus' from mangers and also gave children a baby Jesus to children of their own. In December we also do gifts for our shut ins.

Coming up, we have a Wendover bus trip for a day in January.

In February we have our feast day of our Lady of Lourdes coming up and we'll be participating in that as well. We will have a speaker come to give a talk about lent.

We also look forward to the convention coming up in April.

Submitted by Susan Vaughn

Salt Lake Deanery President

WASATCH DEANERY
Gabby Gauchay , President
St. Francis of Assisi, Orem
saintlydoodles@gmail.com

The Wasatch Deanery starts the year off excited and hopeful for what is to come but still mourning the loss of 2 members close to our hearts. Erin Stephens from St. Francis of Xavier passed away on December 2nd of 2024. And of course, our sweet Becky Hicks from Blessed Sacrament, who was a treasure and giant throughout DCCW as a whole, passed away on December 10th, 2024. Our organization will not be the same without these two amazing women, the example and legacy left by each in their communities will last a lifetime. May we keep them and both of their families in our hearts and prayers.

Our affiliates all ended the year busy as ever with many activities, events, prayer services and more! The Wasatch Deanery truly is a great place to be!

The end of 2024 was busy for many of our affiliates as they prepared and executed some very successful events. **Blessed Sacrament, St. Francis of Assisi** and **St. Martin de Porres** held their annual boutiques to spread crafts and holiday cheer around their parishes!

St. Thomas More also hosted their holiday boutique which is always accompanied by their annual Christmas Luncheon. This year they welcomed and hosted 300 guests to their event!

Throughout our Deanery, prayer is the glue that keeps our groups together. **Sts. Peter & Paul** as well as **St. Peter's** in American Fork both lifted their communities up in prayer as a group. Sts. Peter & Paul start their monthly meetings by saying a Rosary together. St. Peter held a prayer service for the departed souls in their parish during the month of November. And the women at **Blessed Sacrament** were able to distribute prayer shawls to those of the parish that needed comfort. A good reminder that "faith without prayer is a hobby." May all of our groups unite in prayer first and foremost.

St. Martin de Porres & Sts. Peter and Paul both continue to do an amazing job at bringing together the different cultures of their parish. St. Martin de Porres invited members of the Hispanic community to come and teach to teach and inspire their group on the novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Posadas. Sts. Peter and Paul sponsored a parish wide Catholic Community Services donation drive for the Refugee Center.

This was a particularly heavy service season throughout our Deanery as well! **St. Francis of Assisi** was able to provide 10 Christmas meals to families in need. **St. Peter's** was able to donate underwear to Primary Children's Surgical Center. **Blessed Sacrament** honored the Corporal Work of Mercy, by hosting several funeral luncheons. And **St. John the Baptist** hosted a wonderful event to educate their parish on Personal Safety & Situation Awareness.

Again, our Deanery is excited to see where the Lord leads us in our ministry this coming year! We hope to create memorable opportunities to gather and cultivate women on mission!



NORTHERN DEANERY

Cleo Mota , President
St. Mary's, West Haven
cleofemota@yahoo.com

Saint Mary Catholic Church

Hosted annual Advent Dinner on December 3rd, 30 ladies in attendance.

Sold Poinsettias to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

Hosted a nine-day Novena. (Simbang Gabi). This is a Filipino Catholic tradition to honor the blessed Virgin Mary by attending a series of nine evening masses in the days leading up to Christmas.

Held a fundraiser Christmas Bingo night on December 14th.

Donated gifts for the newly formed ministry youth program.

Provided holiday cards for the Sick and Homebound members of the parish.

Collected warm clothing and distributed to the homeless in Ogden.

Donated and distributed food for Ogden homeless.

Participated in the first Friday Nocturnal Adoration.

Participated in the 4th Tuesday Adoration and Rosary.

Will host the annual Infant Jesus Baby Shower on January 21st. All baby gifts are donated to Catholic Community Services "Saint Martha's Baby Project".

Holy Family Catholic Church

• Nelda Troyer, who is over the OCIA Program at Holy Family, talked to us about the procedure of becoming a Catholic. She also invited a few members to talk about their religious journey on becoming a Catholic.

• We had a successful bake sale in November before and after masses on the weekend before Thanksgiving.

• Our ladies tied 50 fleece blankets for our Adopted Grandparent Program and for other charitable organizations such as the Boys' Youth Group.

• We had 24 ladies attend our Annual Christmas party in December. We all enjoyed the delicious ham and wonderful side dishes that were provided for us. The ladies had fun playing a gift exchange game. It was a night to relax and enjoy each other's company

• At our January meeting we had a guest speaker, Sherri Hansen, who spoke on her experience at the Eucharistic Congress that she had attended this past Summer. She shared videos of a few speakers with us, gave us links on more, pictures, etc. Her presentation was awesome.

St. Rose of Lima

September. We had our first meeting of the year in we celebrated some of our members passing, planned our year events and socialize with our friends in faith.

The Council of Catholic Women Ministry had the opportunity to talk about our ministry after all masses.

October. How we work in our spirituality, leadership, service and honored the women of S.t Rose of Lima for the years of service to our parish and many other way to serve and remind people about how they can support our local council, the Deanery and Diocesan ministry.

One of the phrases from one of our members, "As a member of the Council of Catholic Women I found a wonderful avenue to network with my sisters in Christ that strengthened my faith and broadens my service to Jesus Christ and His Church. As a group we affirm the vital role of women in the Church" I couldn't say any better.

Our tortilla sale raised funds to support the Youth Rally at Holy Family. We are purchasing an AED machine for our parish. We had a raffle basket and bake sale in December, as always, we received great support from parishioners and CCW members donations for both events.

NORTHERN DEANERY

Cleo Mota , President
continued:

We hosted an Advent preparation retreat, led by Fr. Gustavo Vidal. We had 53 participants. One of the topics of the retreat was Fr. Vidal view about St. Teresa of Avila, and talk about his recent visit to the city of Ávila is located in the Castile and Leon region of Spain.

December. Instead of a gift exchange, we collected items for the Fish and Loaves food pantry. We had a great Christmas concert with musicians from Weber State University and St. James Parish.

Our Council of Catholic Women Ministry is part of the Walking with Mom's in need program from the Diocese of Salt Lake. In January we are hosting the Davis County Health Department with a presentation about postpartum Services and collecting hygiene items for newborn babies and mothers for the Journey Clinic.



We at St Rose have hosted some of the meetings of the new Bl. Rosaline Rendu Conference as part of the National Council of the United States, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Vincentians strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to neighbors in need. To receive more information and participate please email the Society ssvdprosaliarendu@gmail.com.

We would like to welcome to our St. Rose Family Deacon Kenneth Parsad, his Priest ordination is schedule for June 2025 at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. His Welcome reception at St. Rose is schedule for January 11 & 12 after all the masses.

Saint James The Just

October - ALL THINGS SPAGHETTI - St. James CCW provided a Free Community Spaghetti Dinner to St. James Parishioners, as a Thank You for supporting our initiatives throughout the year.

FALL WREATHS - There was so much fun at the October monthly meeting as we shared a potluck dinner, and made Fall Wreaths - cutting, and gluing leaves and fingers to each wreath.

November - CHRISTMAS FAIR PREP - We prepared for our Christmas Fair held in December, and worked on collecting items for silent auction baskets, wrapping, baking, and laughing - it took a lot of energy, but we made it through!

GIVING TREE - New this year. A large Christmas tree was donated by the Knights of Columbus and placed in our vestibule through the end of December. We hung hundreds of tags asking for socks, hats, and gloves to donate to the Ogden Rescue Mission. Our generous parish community helped us. We were able to donate 600 pairs of socks, 131 hats, and 173 Pairs of Gloves!

December

CHRISTMAS FAIR - The Christmas Fair was held Dec. 14th and 15th in the St.James Gym. Mrs. Claus, also a CCW member, handed out candy-canes, and helped Santa with the naughty/nice list. With over 55 silent auction baskets, food, vendors, music, and fun - we are pleased to say it was an awesome community event.

PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES!

Want to see your CCW in the *Intermountain Catholic* newspaper? As space allows, Marie Mischell, Editor, would like to publish pictures of your ladies group activities.

Email pictures with caption information to: marie.mischel@dioslc.org.

Want to see your ladies on the DCCW website? Send pictures to our Website Editor, Angela Martinez, at: omartini25@comcast.net.

Want to see your ladies in the AWARE? Send pictures to the Aware Editor, Susan Espinoza, at: susane0101@gmail.com.

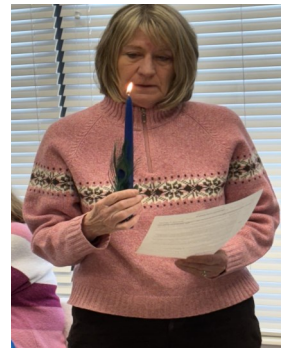
Publicize the good works and good times of your ladies group and share activity ideas!



Annette Presley's Installation as President



Susan Porter's Installation as Vice-President



Blessed Sacrament CCW Officer Installation



NCCW 2024 Convention

MORE PICTURES, PICTURES, PICTURES!



The Ogden Police Department would like to thank the Council of Catholic Women (CCW) of St. James the Just for their generous donation of blankets. These blankets will be distributed to victims of domestic violence, providing much-needed comfort during some of the most challenging times in their lives. We value our domestic violence service partners and our dedicated detectives.



St. Thomas More CCW making valentines.



St. John the Baptist CCW