

Well ladies I think we had another very successful convention and the good news for me is I survived it! There were times in the weeks, days leading up to it that I wasn't sure that I would. But God is good and helps those who have trouble helping themselves. I had no idea what a huge job it was to put together the convention program book and WOY Banquet book?! I literally could not have done them by myself! I have my daughter Michelle and Marie Devereux to thank for turning out such a beautiful product. And I must thank the ladies from the Eastern Deanery, in particular Barbara Jewkes but many others as well and the amazing citizens and businesses that hail from that area. The number of program ads purchased by those businesses is truly gratifying, and many/most have done it year after year. I also wish to thank ladies from other areas of the diocese for the many ads purchased and sponsored by them. I wish to thank EWTN and Javier's for their sponsorship, their support is greatly appreciated!

Selling advertising for the programs is such a good idea and certainly helps with the cost of printing. This year we obtained 100 Full Page ads for an income of \$1400; 27 Half Page ads for a total of \$1350 and 13 Quarter Page ads for \$325 for a total of \$3075. We went with The HB Group printers again this year, they were so great to work with and gave us such a good deal and great service. We had the added benefit of our own Ruth Penderghast, Service Commission Chair, working for them and she personally delivered the order to the hotel on Friday afternoon. I so appreciate her and Amanda Anderson our contact for The HB Group. They were so very accommodating.

I did learn some things through trial and error. The WOY program needs to be a totally different color from the convention program, so they don't get confused. Due to the color and a failure to communicate the WOY programs ended up being put in the convention bags so we had to try to recover them before the banquet on Saturday. Also, the font needs to be bigger and in a darker print, they were hard to read when the light was not very good. I also learned that I need to get started sooner on compiling the information and formatting the ads etc. I think it would be a good idea for the incoming 1st VP/President Elect to be involved in the process because it's such a surprisingly complex task.

I really enjoyed the convention itself; I thought it was all so well done. The hotel staff was accommodating and professional. Cheryl does such an excellent job with registration and Karen Fawbush did a great job as hotel registration chair. The raffles and silent auction were amazing.

My only complaint is how unchristian some of us Catholics ladies can be at times! I heard horror stories from some of the hostesses as to how rude and demanding some people were. I also heard and saw complaints about the hotel staff, and I thought they were all great, especially since they were understaffed. Which is a sign of our times. I know I'm preaching to the choir, and I don't know that anything can be done to change human nature, but I'm embarrassed by the behavior of these supposedly Christian Women.

Carol Harley
1st VP/President Elect