

## **DCCW First Vice-President-President Elect Report January 18, 2025**

Susan Porter, St. John the Baptist, Draper

Watching the snow gently falling outside this past weekend, it is surreal to think that just two 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. A few days later, my husband and I spent a couple of nights at a hotel adjacent to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Hong Kong, the city where my older 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 we were unable to read it, I imagine 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 talks about the differences in being a pilgrim or a tourist. He defines life itself as a pilgrimage, "a spiritual journey to a sacred destination." In a recent reflection on the life of St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, 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. His reflection the day before was about the early Christians and community. While he calls solitude 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. It occurred to me that these same thoughts were behind my decision to accept the nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> VP-President Elect.

In my brief time serving as DCCW Historian, I have become even more aware and in awe of the countless years of service so many of you have dedicated to the mission of the DCCW. You are the same people who have encouraged and mentored me over the years, so I felt moved to say "Yes." It is an understatement to say I am operating out of my comfort zone. The job description, especially for Convention Co-Chair, is a bit overwhelming. 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. Instructions and pricing for the ads are included in the Call to Convention packet and posted on the website. Advertising comes from many sources: businesses, congratulatory messages from our Women's and Knights of Columbus Councils, individual ads honoring the Women of the Year and those in memory of loved ones and Council Sisters we have lost. Becky Columbo has promised to deliver big once again from the Eastern Deanery, so therein lies the challenge to the rest of you. The deadline for submitting ads is March 1<sup>st</sup>. I will also be contacting Officers, Commission and Committee Chairs, and Deanery Presidents for their annual reports which will be assembled and distributed at our April Board Meeting.

I look forward to serving as your 1<sup>st</sup> VP and to working with President Annette Pressley. She and I have a history of supporting one another at both the parish and deanery level. We appreciate all the offers to help guide us through to convention, as this was not the "original" plan. Again, thank you in advance for your prayers. I am also praying that everyone has a very blessed and healthy New Year.