

Salt Lake Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

President's Report to the Board

November 9, 2019

*Everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy –
then we need an hour. St. Francis de Sales*

November is an interesting month: some days are sunny and beautiful, and some are windy and cold; things look brown and gray and dead, but life is constantly being renewed; we continue on with our daily routines but are preparing for the happy disruptions of the holidays; the earth is settling into its winter rest, but we are as busy as ever. During November, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All Souls and ends the Church year with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, this year on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Advent begins the Sunday following.

The cycles of the seasons and the beauty and significance of the Liturgical Calendar can bring us closer to God, the Creator of time and seasons, and His Son, to whose Church we belong. But we have to tune in and be attentive.

I heard once that when someone says she is multi-tasking, it's just another way of saying that she is not paying attention. I know that most of us have, at one time or another, felt as if the candle is being burned on both ends and that multitasking is the only way things will get done. Maybe we don't multitask well, but we still allow ourselves to become overcommitted. With all that is going on in your life, are you still present in the moment? Do you give the attention due to those to whom you are closest? Do you appreciate the richness of the ordinary? Do you focus and listen to the words of the Mass? Do you pause long enough to notice the graces God has bestowed upon you and to thank Him for them? Are you paying attention? It's sometimes easier said than done, but we need to try, both when we are preoccupied and busy when we are not.

Bishop Solis, during our Pastoral visit with him last month, expressed his gratitude for all the women, especially the women of Council, who faithfully serve the Church through various capacities. It is said that "If you are too busy to do the will of God, you are too busy." The willingness to take time to serve – be it your family, your friends, your parish, your community, or total strangers – is a gift from God. All of you who accept that gift and make time to serve, for saying "yes" to God, thank you. And thank you especially for your willingness to give your time, share your talents, and serve through the Council of Catholic Women.

If you have too much to do, with God's help you will find time to do it all.

St. Peter Canisius

Yours in service and faith,

One more thing: Convention is 5 ½ months away!

Casey Pond

DCCW President

(Please see the following page for a Meditation on All Saints and All Souls)

A meditation on All Saints and All Souls

Great Cloud of Witnesses

by Joseph R. Veneroso, M.M.

We do not run the race alone
Nor go into exile by ourselves
For we journey along the Way
Made smooth by those who've gone before.

And though invisible to the eye
They are with us still, forebears in faith,
Whose example, wisdom, and yes, prayers
Inspire, encourage and guide us
Through the valleys and mountains of life.

And in the silence of the night
Listen for the soft whisper of
Ancestors, relatives and friends
Who, though gone, from the sidelines
Still cheer us on and
Whose love and countless kindnesses
Brought us to this very day.

Alone no longer (as if we ever were)
We are part of a vast, unending
Procession of love and life
Past, present and to come
Where memory and meaning mingle
To create an eternal, dynamic
Community of souls and
Communion of saints.