

First Vice-president's Report to the DCCW Board

November 11, 2017

Oh, my goodness. Already the Christmas ads are on TV and in the circulars, and the Thanksgiving items are relegated to a few small shelves as Christmas everything takes over the stores. It can be tempting to get sucked into the hype, and, to be honest, it's a lot of fun. But what about Thanksgiving and Advent?

To answer that: How wonderful it is to be Catholic! We know how blessed we are, and giving thanks and being grateful are what we do – it's part of who we are. Not only are we blessed materially, but we have the joy and truth of our Faith and the hope of eternal life. And we have Advent – not just chocolate count-down calendars and collectible creches, but many opportunities to peacefully and spiritually prepare ourselves for the Nativity of our Savior.

Pope Francis said, "Let us draw from the crib the joy and deep peace that Jesus comes to bring to the world." So, let's celebrate "the holidays" as we should, with joy and peace, charity and kindness, generosity and faithfulness!

However, I would like to request that as you begin planning your celebrations, think about the businesses you frequent this time of year. Consider, especially, shopping and eating at local businesses. Supporting the "buy local" movement helps all of us – especially the small business owner, his/her employees, and our communities. Many of our home-grown businesses have been very generous to us by advertising in our convention program books. Please look through your past convention books and support those businesses who have supported DCCW. It's a win-win! And please, as you are shopping, dining, or having a cup of coffee, thank them for their support.

Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving, a blessed Advent, and a joyous Christmas!
Casey Pond