

Salt Lake Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

President's Report to the Board

July 18, 2020

"Make every effort to preserve the unity the Spirit has already created, with peace binding you together." (Ephesians 4:3)

DCCW doesn't stand on any one woman's shoulders. Not one of us can run this organization on our own. But together, we maximize each other's strengths and minimize our weaknesses. We quietly straighten one another's crowns instead of whispering to others that they are crooked. Together, unified and focused on our mission statement, the teachings of the Church, and the gospel of Christ, we can do great things.

Several of us were on a conference call the other night, discussing an immediate situation. It was late (of course) and a decision had to be made right away. We talked, we analyzed, no one was thrown under the proverbial bus, and we ended up laughing and resolving the problem. And then we chatted a bit about DCCW, why we joined and why we stay. The next morning, I spoke with another Council sister and that same subject came up. The conclusions were the same. And I'll bet if you ask anyone in this room why they are in DCCW, why they accepted leadership positions, and why they continue to serve, they will tell you that they want to get involved in something bigger than themselves, they want to serve their parishes, they want to do good. But the overarching statement will be, "It's the women; the friendships."

Thank you for your friendship and for the opportunity to serve as your President these last two years (plus 2 ½ months!). I was encouraged many years ago by a dear friend to get onto the leadership track but being a member and officer in our parish's Altar Society and Council of Women and the Deanery Council of Catholic Women for almost 30 years, I was content. Now, looking back, I am grateful for her persistence. During my entire tenure as president, and especially these last four months, I was supported, sustained, encouraged, and had my crown straightened by Council friends and sisters, both old and new. I learned a lot about myself, about others, about leadership, and especially about the value of trusted friends.

We are so lucky to belong to this organization with local, state, and national reach. If we choose, we can develop lifelong friendships and serve our communities with women in our parishes, our deaneries, our diocese, and our country through our affiliation with Council. Friendships based on Christian values will be blessed. So, stay involved, take a leadership position at any level of Council, encourage others to join you, and enjoy the ride. It's worth it.

God bless you all!

Yours in faith and service,

Casey Pond
DCCW President, 2018-2020