

# Wasatch Deanery Report

09.26.24

As most of our councils are coming out of “summer vacation” mode, we are pleased to see such amazing events and services happening throughout our deanery.

## **President’s Report**

Gabby Gauchay

I love fall so much! This weather has me absolutely excited for what’s to come. The coziest time of year. I attended the Utah Catholic Conference last week and I was moved by the speakers and courses offered. Most of all, I am always in awe of the amount of Catholics in one place. Being a gal that grew up in Utah county, these events always have me starstruck to see so many people around me - that share my faith and love of the Lord!

I was also so pleased that there was a great selection of courses offered to help our organizations reach out and grow! And that’s what I know each of us in our parishes are interested in - growth!

2 key takeaways for me were 1. welcoming - be warm and welcoming to everyone you encounter! This attracts. Growing up terribly shy, I remember once, before starting college and a job in the school district I was given some great advice, to always try to step out of my discomfort and social anxiety, as it could perhaps come off as rudeness. This is something that has tremendously transformed my whole personality. Wherever I am and no matter how self conscious I feel, I always try to push myself a little bit farther and make sure that all I encounter know that they are welcomed and valued.

The second take away for me was the idea of having virtuous and deep relationships. To move friendships from the beneficial and social stages to having a deep care of the others journey, spirit and soul. I think sometimes in our organizations, we can get stuck on serving and events - which is all very good - but we forget our first call, which is to journey together toward Heaven. How can our groups reach out and create environments that welcome and foster these deep and virtuous friendships? This is a theme I will be keeping in prayer and meditation for the next little bit and I invite you to do the same.

## **Affiliate Reports**

### **St. Francis of Assisi – Orem, UT**

Women of St. Francis meets on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 in rooms 3 and 4 at St. Francis of Assisi church. We changed leadership in June with new president, Pat Doherty; vice president, Carol P.; treasurer Yolanda Stewart and secretary Shauna Williams.

We held our annual St. Francis of Assisi parish picnic in August and had a good turn out and lots of fun. This is our annual fundraiser for our organization. We continue to support our community and the Knight’s by preparing meals for monthly Bingo. We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Boutique for December 7th and 8th.

### **St. Peter – American Fork, UT**

On August 27,2024 we met for a short meeting then viewed the display boards presenting Blessed Carlo Acutis work on Eucharistic Miracles in the Dowling Center. We then filled our plates with goodies and watched the video on his life. The entire Parish had access to the display and video several times that week including after the Saturday and Sunday Masses. The Knights and Catechists provided a great deal of support including the set-up of the room and DVD player including large speakers.

On September 10 th , we held a meeting to learn about a Saint and plan future activities. Saint John Paul II was the Saint presented. We decided to take turns presenting a 10 minute presentation on our favorite Saint or one of the Saints of that month. We also decided to take

turns providing then offering the opening prayer. We also decided to contact Assisted Living facilities in our area to provide visits and support to Catholic Women there. The Knights will in turn provide visits and support to any Catholic Men there.

On October 8 th , Crystal Painter from the Diocese will be speaking to us on the Safety program and what we need to watch out for to protect our children, grandchildren and Elderly along with personal awareness.

### **St. Thomas More - Cottonwood Heights, UT**

The Ladies of St Thomas More had a wonderful summer filled with get-togethers at ladies' homes for our monthly Meet and Mingles. We kicked off our official start of the Ladies season with Bunco at our last Meet and Mingle hosted in our parish hall. Planning our annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon has begun. We are very excited because this years' theme is "Let the Bells Ring, Christ is Born". Lastly, we will host and invite our parish to say Rosary in the grotto for Council Sunday this October. We look forward to another year of fellowship and friends as we move into this fall season.

### **Blessed Sacrament - Sandy, UT**

**July:** First Friday Adoration was again sponsored by CCW and lead by Deacon Billy Martin. We also did Liturgy of the Hour evening prayers. Then silent prayer time.

No formal CCW meeting held. We met at La Coasta Restaurant for dinner and socialize. We had a wonderful time, great food and wonderful service from our waitress. We had approximately 30 ladies attend.

**August:** Met for First Friday Adoration. It was well attended. Deacon Billy Martin Lead Adoration. We included Liturgy of the Hours evening prayers. Then quiet prayer.

Our August CCW Meeting Theme "Baby Shower" and we asked the parishioner to please donate baby item. We had a tremendous response. At our CCW Meeting Judith Puhr from St. Martha Baby Project, spoke on the great need for baby item for layettes that they put together valued at close \$400.00. They gave away over 500 layettes last year.

Plans are set up our Council Tea in October and Raffle.

Plans are being worked out for our annual Holiday Boutique in November.

We have reservation at the Grand America for High Tea in December.

Our CCW ladies acted as an Honor Guard for long time parishioner at her funeral. Then hosted a dinner for her family and friends.

**September:** We Plan our First Friday Adoration with Deacon Billy Martin leading Adoration.

We'll do Liturgy of the Hours evening prayers. Then quiet prayer.

CCW meeting Fr. Carlos will speak on the Sorrows of Mary.

### **St. Martin de Porres - Taylorsville, UT**

In August we had our board meeting to discuss the next year's calendar of events. Robin Marvive is stepping down as president of St. Martin de Porres CCW in June and Jacquie Bergstrom is stepping in. We are blessed to have a new treasurer and secretary, God has truly provided. We have decided as a group to engage and invite more members to work as leaders and/or board members. Growth within our parish is essential to our future. We had our first meeting on September 18th. We invited the CCS Catholic Community Services to bring their Empty Bowls to sell and to teach what the sale of the bowls does to support St Vincent de Paul. We were also blessed to have the Knights of Columbus do a little presentation and another parishioner explain the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen and the Gift to the Drummer. In October we will be honoring Mother Mary with our Living

Rosary and chair Yoga. Plus we will be preparing for our Fall Festival on October 26th and 27th. All are welcome to join us.

### **St. Joseph the Worker - West Jordan, UT**

We have been active and had a welcome back: "Evening of Spirituality Women United in Prayer" on September 19th. Susan Espinoza table set the presence of Jesus in the room for all of us and prayer service kept all involved. There was a raffle along with many potluck dishes and nice conversation with each other. Two ladies from St. Andrew's parish came and we all shared ideas and stories. It was a spiritual and fun night for all. We will be doing a Saintry Trunk or Treat on November 1st at the church and with other ministries. Theme is to decorate your trunk in a saint theme and dress up as a favorite saint. The prize is \$25 for best car and \$25 for the best dressed youth. It will start at 5 PM and end at 7 PM. We are hoping to get at least 10 cars and hopefully more! I hope this helps you out. We are only in need of a secretary currently and I did ask one of the ladies to think about it.

## **Commission Reports**

### **Spirituality - Ranae Lupus**

#### **Humility**

“There is more value in a little study of humility and in a single act of it than in all the knowledge world.

St. Teresa of Avila “

Humility is a virtue I deeply admire, but all so very challenging to me. Sometimes I let my pride, disappointment, and stubbornness get in the way. I found myself this past weekend with some of these feelings which left me sad and disappointed with myself. I know I need Jesus more than ever I ask for his grace in helping me loving others and seek to live humbly. The Litany of Humility prayer helps me, I hope that it may also help you in times of need. May the peace and love of Jesus be with you all.

### **Leadership - Jamie Beert**

Happy Fall Everyone ! Hope you all had a great summer!

As many of our CCWs are getting back into meetings and activities, I thought I could provide some information about bridging the gap between generations. Hopefully this information can help us all communicate with other generations, as well as making our CCW meetings, activities, and community appealing to all generations.

Some strategies to help bridge the Gaps:

**Open Communication** – Different generations have different communication styles. Some prefer Face to Face and Phone calls, while others prefer Electronic communications. Discuss within your CCW and even with members of the Parish, what their preferred communication styles are and find some options to get the communication to more people. In meetings and gatherings, emphasize the importance of clarity in communication to try to avoid misunderstandings or conflict. Create a safe environment for all to be able to share their ideas. Encourage explanations and history of why

things are done they way they are, yet be open to new and different ideas. Don't get stuck in the "We have always done it that way" without offering why that is. Encourage flexibility and patience within the group.

**Support learning from each other** – Implement mentorship – and not always the older generation mentoring the newer, reverse it, have the newer generation mentor the older. This helps facilitate knowledge exchange across generations. Younger can share expertise in technology and innovation, while the older can share their experience and wisdom. I know getting volunteers can be challenging, however try to pair up different generations as "chairs" or "leads" for different projects, activities, etc. Having some one-on-one interaction can help bond and build deeper relationships to form. Avoid stereotyping and generalizing of generations. Each person is an individual and shouldn't be lumped into a generation stereotype. Although may not be popular at first, maybe do seat assignments, have people count off and set people of a number at a table or moving people before meeting starts, just to break up the groups who always sit together,

**Planning cross-generational activities** – Look at varying schedules for meetings or activities. Try some daytime, later evening, weekends to try to increase participation. Find ways to incorporate your CCW members with the girls/young women in the Confirmation Class or youth group and vice versa. Talk with the CCW about maybe having some other groups started – an exercise group, Mommy group (include some mentor Moms), Craft group, Book Club. Freshen up your publicity and use multiple media forms – Posters, Announcements at Mass (more impactful if done by a woman from the CCW), webpages, texts, emails, Facebook, Instagram, etc. Keep changing things, don't get stuck in the same old rut. Try reversing the agenda, different themes for the meetings, try new activities and fundraisers, different speakers and topics.

**Bylaws / Standing Rules Committee** – Nothing to report. If anyone has or finds corrections / additions / deletions, please let me know.

#### **Historian/Website - Gabby Gauchay**

For those who don't know, our deanery has it's own website! This was a wonderful idea that Annette had at the beginning of her presidency, and it was finally finished right before her last meeting. To review, the intent of the website is to be a resource for you all, as attendees of these Deanery Meetings

Before meetings, you will find all of the necessary documentation there to print off prior to the meeting. Those documents are;

- Call to Meeting
- Proposed Agenda
- Meeting Minutes from Previous Meeting
- Consolidated Reports - Affiliate and Commission

The intent is for you to go onto the website, and print off this documentation to eliminate the amount of emails we have to send out prior to the meetings, I know sometimes myself, there is so much email traffic leading up to a meeting, that I end up not being able to find the right documents. The only documents that WILL NOT be posted on the site are the Roster and the Treasurer's Report, due to the sensitivity of the documents. Those 2 items will still be sent out via email.

My second hope for this website is to be used to bring awareness to our affiliates of the "bigger picture" that they a part of. I believe, by having a place to showcase what our groups are doing around the deanery, we can bring a sense of unity amongst all Catholic women in our area, and

hopefully new ideas and friendships can flourish. That being said, we NEED your pictures, we NEED to see what you are doing. We NEED you to show the site to your groups to get the inspiration going! As always, we are open to ideas and modifications. Please let me know if you have either!

### **Service - Christine Corley**

It has been my experience that most women, and particularly those in a community who are actively looking to serve God by serving others, are already aware of where the needs are. We may or may not know everyone's names, but we see the parishioner coming in on crutches, the notice of an upcoming funeral in the bulletin, and the new names added to the list of mass intentions. We pass along prayer requests as members of our councils go through struggles. And as we pray for all of those in need, sometimes we feel called to do more. But, as you may have experienced, that can get overwhelming quickly.

At our last meeting, I mentioned that I see my role as Service Commission Chair not just as a person who points out needs and opportunities for service, but as someone who helps you to find the tools needed to meet those needs. To that end, I would like to suggest pre-made care packages that can be passed out as needed – at mass, at your meetings, or while delivering someone a meal. To make things simpler, your council might consider starting with a number of base care packages that can be customized according to the occasion. Just determine how many you would like to make and either purchase the items as a council or ask your members to donate them, then take a meeting to assemble and label the packages (perhaps in ziptop bags for easy storage, with gift bags and tissue paper to transfer them to as needed). Some suggestions follow:

Basic Catholic care package:

- Prayer card
- Rosary
- Guide to the rosary book or pamphlet
- Miraculous medal
- Mug
- Tea assortment

For a medical patient:

- Puzzle book (crossword, sudoku, wordsearch, etc)
- Deck of cards
- Lotion

For a new parent:

- Small baby items
- Coupon for babysitting or house cleaning
- Holy Family print or statue

For someone grieving:

- Book about grief from a faith perspective
- Information about local support groups
- Perpetual mass card

We know that we can serve Christ by serving the people He loves (spoiler alert: that's everyone!) and we know that we build our community when we provide support to one another when it is most needed. That doesn't mean that it needs to be a last-minute rush each time to gather items or get funds approved. Life will continue to happen, and we can plan ahead to be there for our community members when it does.

*Submitted by Gabby Gauchay  
Wasatch Deanery President  
September 26th, 2024*