

**Wasatch Deanery CCW Report—June 1, 2019**  
Susan Porter, President, St. Thomas More Parishioner

The Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women (WDCCW) has exciting news to report following the DCCW convention in April. First, we are pleased and proud to congratulate our very own founding President, **Pat Voorhes**, on being voted in as the NCCW President-Elect. This is a well-deserved honor, as our Deanery, the DCCW, and the NCCW have all benefited from her many years of service at various levels in these organizations. We trust Pat will be very effective in leading the NCCW into the future. Secondly, several of the unaffiliated parishes in our Deanery have expressed interest in organizing or re-vitalizing their women's councils. Amy Kennedy and I have been in contact with Cabrini Riddle from St. Martin de Porres. Her pastor, Fr. Jan, has asked her to form a CCW, and she has very enthusiastically answered the call. **MaryAnne Mulvihill** is still working very hard to re-affiliate St. Therese in Midvale, hopefully as early as this fall. In addition, it has been brought to my attention that St. Jude Maronite and Immaculate Conception are considering affiliating. We currently have nine active affiliates: Blessed Sacrament, San Andres, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Francis Xavier, St. John the Baptist, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Peter, St. Thomas More, and St. Vincent de Paul.

Many of our affiliates report having experienced a particularly rich spiritual renewal during the convention weekend and have felt inspired to implement the resolutions that were adopted. In keeping with one of those resolutions, I read Marge Fenelon's book, *Imitating Mary*, which closely followed her Saturday morning talk, "Spirituality of Womanhood: Living our Faith with Mary as a Model." My favorite image from that talk and her book is that of Mary as the Grieving Mother-Child. For many of us, especially if we are "cradle Catholics," we have identified with Mary throughout various stages of our lives. As mothers, we can appreciate her dilemma in wanting to be an obedient "child of God" and see His will fulfilled; yet, we also will go to great lengths to spare our children from pain and suffering. This image brought to mind the scene from "The Passion of the Christ" when Jesus falls while carrying the Cross and Mary has a flashback to a time when he was running to her across a rocky field and falls, skinning his knees. I have always enjoyed the Sunday morning session of our convention, but this year had a special reverence to it. The bilingual rosary, led by **Lydia Farnell**, was a beautiful way to start the morning. The Taize Prayer Service, led by **Susan Espinoza, Suzie Brown, Susan Nielson**, and **Ann Boyer** was very moving. (This might be a good time to mention that all these wonderful ladies are from parishes in the Wasatch Deanery!) You could hear a pin drop during Rosemary Baron's "Amazing Grace" presentation. There wasn't a dry eye at our table when she spoke of her encounter with the homeless pregnant woman. Father Rene's talk, "Service is Grace," was very much appreciated and very timely, at least for me, having experienced a somewhat "Martha-esque" Lent this year. Lastly, **MaryAnne**, our Immediate Past-President, did a splendid job on the Silent Auction and Raffle.

Affiliate Presidents were asked to submit a paragraph about upcoming activities in May and June, as well as to share a favorite memory from convention or if possible, an impression from a first-time attendee. The following is a summary of *their* reports:

**Blessed Sacrament (Rose Stehno and Michelle Beasley):** *Blessed Sacrament was thrilled to win the award for the greatest number of attendees. As always, it is a time to pray, reflect and share memories with other Catholic women. This year what struck most of us was Marge Fenelon's talk on "When's God Gonna Show Up?" and the concept of "the moment." This is the moment most of us recognize as a time when we know our lives are being touched by God and in some way, his gift of*

*grace allows us to share that love with one another. For a first-time attendee from Blessed Sacrament, this moment came when she felt urged to give a rosary to a young girl who is a granddaughter of one of this year's Women of the Year. She had not met this girl before, but by the end of the bus ride from the cathedral, they made friends, and she was able to touch the life of this 15-year old girl. This story was shared at the May CCW meeting as part of the closing prayer. God is always working through us if we just open up to Him.*

In April, approximately 184 children enjoyed finding 3700 candy stuffed eggs at the CCW sponsored Easter Egg Hunt held on the Saturday before Palm Sunday. The CCW also hosted well attended receptions for family and friends of those receiving the sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist in May. Some of the women went to see *Steel Magnolias* at the Hale Center Theatre for fellowship. They recently furnished a pork roast dinner at the Fisher House for the veterans and their families. Community Service co-chairs are coordinating a service project to gather items for those homeless in hospice, resolving to make an effort to support the homeless in their final days of life". The annual garage sale at Blessed Sacrament will be held on the weekend of June 7-8<sup>th</sup>.

**St. Francis of Assisi (Gina Bowen):** *It was a beautiful conference. We had three tables full this year, and a lot of women, including myself, expressed that they felt the Holy Spirit among them.*

In May, a Mother's Day themed meeting included a light dinner and a guest speaker from the parish on the topic "Mary, Untier of Knots." In June, the Women of St. Francis will hold a Bunco fund-raiser at Gina's home to raise money for their service project, putting together packets for the homeless.

**St. John the Baptist (Nancy Reading):** In April, the St. John the Baptist Ladies Association did their Lenten Service Project based on the needs outlined by the DCCW for the Midvale Women's and Family Shelter. They collected large numbers of sweatpants, bath towels, and travel-sized toiletries. The ladies gathered to work on wood signs and enjoyed Mexican delicacies for Cinco de Mayo. They also held nominations for empty board seats and put baskets together for the DCCW convention. In May, they had a good turnout to make Kentucky Derby hats and socialize at their final meeting this year. In June, they will hold their "Changing of the Guard" dinner to thank the outgoing officers and welcome and orient the new ones.

**St. Peter (Lydia Farnell):** *Sharon Simmons, St. Peter's Woman of the Year and a first-time attendee, offered the following impressions: She really enjoyed the convention and the keynote speaker in the morning but felt we should have had another speaker in the afternoon, as she lost interest with the second presentation. Overall, she felt the set up was nice and that it flowed well. She really liked the Opening Prayer Service and the Presentation of the Colors.*

**St. Thomas More (Roxann Vredenburg):** *My favorite memory from the convention was Rosemary Baron's talk on Sunday morning about the homeless lady whose baby passed away and how that affected her.*

All ladies of the parish have been invited to attend the year-end potluck social on May 30<sup>th</sup>, hosted by the Ladies of St. Thomas More. Our Master Gardener presentation was well attended in April and the ladies have decided to adopt some sections of our parish gardens to care for and plant flowers. We will continue to have some less formal Meet & Mingle events over the summer. In July we will meet for a short hike, followed by coffee at a local establishment.

