

Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women Annual Report April 2025

What a delight it has been to serve as the Wasatch Deanery president for almost a year now! An opportunity I never saw myself having or pursuing. The places God will take you, if you are willing to answer His call. I am continually amazed and honored by the support, guidance and inspiration I have received from every member! There is so much to learn and so many friendships I have formed from this organization that are truly invaluable to me and have shaped who I am.

Our affiliates all have been busy as ever with many activities, events, prayer services and more. The Wasatch Deanery truly is a great place to be!

In the fall, we had the opportunity to meet a few women from St. Andrew's parish in Riverton, at the Utah Catholic Conference. It was such a "God wink" to run into them, as they were interested in the possibility of affiliating. I was honored to go, alongside Barb Kerouac and Annette Pressley to present to their women's group on our organization and the benefits that come with being an affiliated member. Since then, we have supported their group by promoting various events that they have held. We hope to see them join the Wasatch Deanery in the near future!

Affiliate Reports

St. Francis of Assisi, Orem continues to meet during the summer months, planning their most important events that occur in the fall and winter. They kicked off the 2024 - 2025 council year with new leadership and by hosting their Parish Picnic! Winter was busy helping with monthly Bingo meals and prepping for the Christmas Boutique, which was very successful! This year they introduced a new gift wrapping station and 3 outside vendors. During the Christmas Season, they were also blessed to have been able to provide 12 Christmas dinners for families in need around the parish. 2025 was off to a busy start, full of Lenten soups, funeral meals and a weekly Lenten Tea & Coffee social for the ladies of the parish.

St. Peter, American Fork was blessed to have hosted the Blessed Carlo Acutis, Eucharistic Miracles poster displays in August. They made an event out of it, and invited their parish to join them in watching a video on the young saint's life. During the fall they had a Saintly theme for their monthly meetings, inviting their members to present and share with one another their favorite saints. During November, they held a prayer service for the departed souls in their parish. The winter came and passed with a successful donation drive for the Primary Children's Surgical Center. Amazing work ladies! Their group may be small - but they are mighty!

Blessed Sacrament, Sandy kept busy through the summer, hosting First Friday Adoration. In August, they kicked off the 2024-2025 council year with a Baby Shower - and all attendees brought in baby items to donate to Martha's Baby Project. Council Month in October was celebrated with their annual tea event, which is always well attended! I don't know how these women do it! Fall was full of Boutique festivities - if you haven't been to their boutique, you NEED to! As well, they were able to distribute prayer shawls to those of the parish that needed comfort. A good reminder that "faith without prayer is a hobby." Winter brought on many opportunities to honor the Corporal Works of Mercy, by hosting several funeral luncheons. In January these ladies were able to gather to prepare a wonderful meal of soup and sweet breads to donate to the Inn Between in Salt Lake for their Sunday evening meal.

St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Heights continued their monthly meet and mingles, gathering socially in each other's homes throughout the summer. These gals were BUSY during the Fall and Winter months, preparing for their annual Ladies Christmas Luncheon and Boutique. The theme was "Let the Bells Ring, Chris is Born." It was a successful event - welcoming 300 guests!

St. Martin de Porres, Taylorsville and the ladies there were busy busy as usual! In September they invited CCS to bring and present their Empty Bowl project. They invited the Knights of Columbus to present on the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen and the Gift of the Drummer project. This group also held their annual boutique with great success - spreading crafts and holiday cheer around their parish. These women are great at blending the diverse communities in their parish. In December, invited members of the Hispanic community to come and teach to teach and inspire their group on the novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Posadas. In January, they started the year off by teaming up with their Respect Life group, by hosting a donation drive to collect and make layettes that were donated to Respect Life and the PRC.

St. Joseph the Worker, West Jordan held a wonderful "Evening of Spirituality, Women United in Prayer" in September as their welcome back. A wonderful prayer table was set up and set the presence of Jesus in the room for all of us and prayer kept all involved. Their fall looked "spooky" as they hosted a Trunk or Treat, as well as the WDCCW meeting in October! In the fall, they did the wonderful service of making fall cards and delivering them to the West Jordan Care Center. What better way to kick off the holiday season than with a bake sale - these ladies know how to bake and blessed the patrons of their parish with their homegoods!

St. John the Baptist, Draper throws some of the most FABULOUS events and gatherings. They are great at creating opportunities for women to gather, learn, socialize and pray! During the summer, they hosted a book club, inviting women to read Chicken Soup for the Catholic Women's Soul - what better way to end that reading, than with a soup social! Fall was for service, the ladies gathered gift bags full of socks, lotion, spiritual books, etc. for their home-bound parishioners. They started 2025 off with some education - holding a Personal Safety Awareness Class. During Lent, they were blessed to have hosted the women of not only their community, but nearby parishes by "Walking the Stations of the Cross with our Blessed Mother." Truly, these women know how to gather!

To sum it up, as women we have a unique call to serve in the ways in which God has equipped us. We specialize in spiritual and hospitality service. The women of the Wasatch Deanery do a phenomenal job at answering those calls and keeping busy serving God's people.

Another important facet of our ministry is relational. We were made to be in communion with each other. The relationships that are formed throughout this organization, and especially, blossom here at convention are some of the strongest I have witnessed. And the bond that we all share as Catholic Women truly is a special one. We are there for each other through all stages and seasons of life. Some of those seasons being the hardest. Our deanery has recently experienced the hard season of mourning. During December of 2024 we laid to rest and honored the lives of two of our beloved members, this last winter. Erin Stephens from St. Francis of Xavier passed away on December 2nd of 2024. And of course, our sweet Becky Hicks from Blessed Sacrament, who was a treasure and giant throughout DCCW as a whole, passed away on December 10th, 2024. These two women have touched not only my life but their outreach expanded far beyond the Wasatch Deanery. Our organization will not be the same without these two amazing women. The example and legacy left by each in their communities will last a lifetime. May we keep them and both of their families in our hearts and prayers.

Our Deanery, once again welcomes you to the DCCW convention - we look forward to seeing how Jesus will call us to encounter Him and are excited to see where He leads us in our ministry this coming year! We hope to create memorable opportunities to gather and cultivate women on mission!

Submitted by Gabby Gauchay
Wasatch Deanery President