

DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
An Affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women



2026 CALL TO CONVENTION

The official call to the Ninety-seventh Convention of the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

Dear Friends of Council,

The Diocese of Salt Lake City Council of Catholic Women cordially invites you to attend their annual convention on **Saturday, April 18, and Sunday, April 19, 2026**, at the **Little America Hotel, 500 South Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah**. The proud hosts of this year's convention are the Eastern Deanery Council of Catholic Women. "*Believe in the Eucharist: Blessed, Broken, Shared*" is the theme, which follows the 2025 NCCW convention theme.

We have a program designed to promote your spiritual encounter and renewal.



Marie Miller will be our keynote speaker. She is a multi-faceted artist and speaker who weaves music, humor, and storytelling to convey God's love for us and our opportunity to share that love with others. At seventeen Marie was signed by Curb Records. During her Curb years, she recorded the #1 Christian song, "You're Not Alone" and had songs featured in movies and television shows. After much thought and prayer, she left Curb Records to create "Little Dreams," her first independent album. The album's title track video premiered on Billboard and its most popular single, "Imaginary Friend," was streamed over 1 million times on iTunes. As a live performer, Marie opened for the Backstreet Boys, The Wallflowers, toured with Five for Fighting, and headlined shows in listening rooms across the country. Marie shared

the main stage with Mark Wahlberg, Andrea Bocelli, and Aretha Franklin to perform for Pope Francis and a live audience of 750,000. Marie recently released her second independent album, "The Way of Love" inspired by the life and teachings of St. Therese of Lisieux and will present **The Way of Love**, a special musical presentation on the teaching of Saint Therese of Lisieux"- Marie will, also, contribute a moving addition during our Sunday morning Adoration.

Carol Ruddell is our guest speaker. She is the Administrator of Crisis and Suicide Prevention Programs for the state of Utah in the Department of Health and Human Services. Carol was a teacher for 22 years, working primarily with deaf and blind students, with twelve of those years as the Transition Specialist at the Utah Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Carol is a member of St. Thomas More Catholic Parish, and the Diocese of Salt Lake City Commission for People with Disabilities. She is also a Lay Ecclesial Minister for the Diocese. Carol is passionate about Catholic social teaching,

sharing with others the many ways, both large and small, that each of us live our faith every day. Carol will present, **Blessed, broken and shared - a life of sharing** to ask the question, “How will we answer the call to be the bread for others and how will we prepare to share Christ with others?”

Our two featured Commissions are Service and Spirituality

Service Commission Speakers are **Mary Ellen Dworshak and Sister Germaine Sarazzin, D.C.** Mary Ellen has been serving at the Center of Hope for 10 years. She is the Development Director for the Center of Hope which she describes as basically the “community liaison” -- she is the one that serves to coordinate between their Advisory Council and the Board for the Center of Hope. Mary Ellen is a native Montanan, married with 2 children and 5 grandchildren. Sister Germaine Sarazzin, D.C., has been a Daughter of Charity for 67 years. In 1961 she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education and taught first grade for 40 years-- 23 of those years here in Utah. In 2007, Sister returned to Utah to be the Vincentian Spiritual Moderator to the Ladies of Charity when she began collaborating with the Ladies of Charity at the Center of Hope. The title of their presentation is **“Feeding the Body and the Spirit”**

Spirituality Commission Speaker is **Amy Kennedy**. Amy entered the Catholic Church in 2000 and soon became deeply involved in Council work, serving as secretary and later president of her parish CCW, where she continues as treasurer. Amy has held leadership roles at every level of Council, including serving as president of the Salt Lake Deanery and the Salt Lake City DCCW. Her NCCW service includes serving as chair of the NCCW Leadership Commission, a member of the Leadership Development and Training (LTD) Team, and as Secretary. In 2023, Amy was elected President-Elect and now proudly serves as your NCCW President. Amy serves on several community and diocesan boards, including the Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake and the Catholic Foundation of Utah. She and her husband live in Salt Lake City, are parishioners at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. In her spare time – yes, she does have some! - she enjoys reading, cooking, and traveling. Her presentation is titled: **“This is My Body”-**

We will be honoring the Woman of the Year recipients at the Saturday evening banquet along with Bishop Oscar Solis, Reverend Ariel Durian, Salt Lake City DCCW Spiritual Advisor and other special guests from the Diocese.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- Prayer/Meditation Room and inspiring prayer services
- Confession
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Poster Session
- Vendors: Magdalene Religious Goods, Carmelites Candies and Jams

CONVENTION MEALS:

We will be at Little American Hotel for the third year. We have selected varied menu items that we hope you will enjoy. We have tried to keep your previous comments in evaluations in mind, plus tried to keep costs reasonable, which is difficult, as food prices continue to skyrocket. (Meals are the greatest cost of the convention.) The hotel will provide vegetarian, vegan, and gluten free meals as indicated on your registration forms. ***Please make sure your dietary restrictions are noted on your registrations.***

TENTATIVE AGENDA

The agenda enclosed will give you an idea of each day's timeline.

CONVENTION MASS

The 5:00 pm Vigil Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine will again be a highlight of the convention. Each year we have graciously been able to attend the regular evening Mass. We are visitors to the Cathedral and really appreciate this opportunity. Please remember to be reverent when entering the Cathedral, we are guests in the Lord's house. Mass transportation will be provided by Catholic School buses, as in the past, as part of your registration. If any of your attendees are challenged by mobility problems, please know that the buses drop us off at the front of the Cathedral, requiring them to climb the stairs. Please plan to provide private transportation, if needed. The Cathedral has accessibility via the Plaza/courtyard by entering from C Street. Due to limited parking, it is suggested you arrive no later than 4:45 pm. **The WOY Group Picture will take place at the end of the Mass at the Cathedral. WOY should plan to take the last bus back to the hotel or have private transportation.**

CONVENTION ADVERTISING: Flyer enclosed

Please promote Convention attendance by using the enclosed flyer on your bulletin boards, websites, social media page(s), and in your weekly bulletin as an insert. Be creative on spreading the word and inviting women from your parishes, friends, and acquaintances. The flyer will also be on the DCCW website www.dccwutah.org. **WE NEED YOU to spread the word and make it known that all are welcome.**

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: *Application and guidelines Enclosed (deadline March 1)*

The DCCW Scholarship Program is offered to individuals who want to attend the convention but are unable to do so because of the costs involved. A copy of the Scholarship Application and Guidelines is enclosed. (Additional copies are on the website.) We advise all women to first check with your parish organization to see if they offer any convention financial assistance. Be assured the Registration and Scholarship Chairs keep all applications strictly confidential. **The Scholarship Application deadline is March 1, 2026, so it can be processed prior to the registration deadline.**

CONVENTION REGISTRATION: Forms enclosed (deadline March 15)

PLEASE NOTE: 2 Separate forms: 1 for Convention Registration (Package A, B, & D)

1 for Banquet Registration (Package C only)

By doing this we are hoping to alleviate any confusion for the WOY Banquet registrants.

ATTENTION: A new box has been added to the second page of Registration Form A, B, D for number of attendees who will take the bus to the Cathedral for mass. This will ensure we have enough buses for transport.

Please use the enclosed *Registration forms*, which can also be found on the DCCW Website. **The Registration Deadline is March 15, 2026. This includes the Woman of the Year and her guests.** All registrations need prepayment. Make one check payable to the "DCCW" and note "Convention Registration" on the check.

2026 REGISTRATION FEES: DOES NOT INCLUDE HOTEL!!

Package A	\$285 includes registration, convention bag, all meals, (banquet included) and Mass transportation.
Package B	\$130 includes Saturday registration, Breakfast, lunch, (NO Banquet) and Mass transportation.
Package C	\$98 includes Saturday night Banquet only: MUST PRE-REGISTER: NO at door registrations accepted.
Package D	\$78 includes Sunday only registration and breakfast.

Please fill out the registration forms completely and legibly, double check spelling of all names (as this list will be used for name badges), and **make sure to list banquet table seating preferences (who is to sit together), if more than 8 registrants.** There will be 2 choices for the banquet, *please* make sure you mark the choice of meals, Short Ribs **OR** Red Snapper on your registrations. **(There will be vegan, vegetarian, gluten free substitutions available if it is marked on your registrations.** The banquet pricing is the same for special dietary needs) It's important to *note any dietary restrictions and list them in the space provided on the registration form, as well as those attending with special needs.* This makes it much easier to accommodate special needs if known in advance. Please remember to **mark first time attendees** on the registration form to assure they are given a proper welcome. Parking fees are waived.

PLEASE NOTE: A late fee of \$20 per registration will be added to each registration postmarked after March 15, 2026. After April 4, 2026, no refunds will be given. Final meal counts are turned into the hotel, and the DCCW is responsible for payment at that point.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS- As last year, each person will be required to make their own reservation with the hotel. There is a link and a group code to receive the below rates. A form providing the link to book online and group code to book via telephone, as well as step by step instructions on booking online is enclosed and on the DCCW Website, www.dccwutah.org. **Deadline to receive the group rate is March 13.** Room rates may not be guaranteed after this deadline

Little America room rates per night include single, double, triple, & quad (1-4 individuals)	
Garden room 1 King or 2 Queen (Bldg. 5 or 7) rate:	\$169.00 (plus tax)
Garden Premium room 1 King or 2 Queen (Bldg. 8) rate:	\$179.00 (plus tax)
Tower 1 King or 2 Queen (Main Tower) rate:	\$199.00 (plus tax)
Tower Luxury 1 King or 2 Queen (Main Tower) rate:	\$209.00 (plus tax)
Both Garden and Garden Premium are located "outside" the main hotel and entrance is through the lobby.	

Incidental room charges are the responsibility of each person. All rooms are provided with the usual amenities and hospitality items. Time will be allotted during the Sunday program to facilitate **11:00am check out.** (arrange for a late check-out for an added fee) The hotel front desk can arrange to check luggage prior to check-in and at checkout, if needed.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR (WOY): (Deadline March 1) & (Banquet registration deadline March 15)

The information about the selection of the Woman of the Year from your parish is enclosed. This information is also available on the DCCW Website: www.dccwutah.org The name of your Woman of the Year along with a brief biography and "headshot" picture, is to be sent to the addresses on the enclosed forms due by

Sunday, MARCH 1, 2026. This is 1 month away so please do not procrastinate, as it takes time for us to compile the information needed to present at the Woman of the Year banquet. Any names received after March 1, 2026, may not have their names in the convention program.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: The Group Picture will be taken at the Cathedral following the Vigil Mass.

ALL Women of the Year, family members and friends wishing to accompany her to the banquet must purchase at least the package C (banquet only) Registration. All attendee names and registration fees must be included on the Convention registration form, due March 15, 2026. *THERE WILL BE NO BANQUET TICKET SALES THE DAY OF THE BANQUET.* Please advise them to plan ahead.

Woman of the Year (WOY) Banquet Seating and General information:

All seating for the Woman of the Year Banquet is pre-assigned and there will be no “on-site” banquet tickets sales. Seating will be by table number. If your affiliate has more than 8, please indicate who should sit together. Tables will be assigned on a first registered basis. We will attempt to seat parish attendees together based on registration forms. The earlier you get your registration in, the better your chance of receiving your seating request.

NOTE: Make sure the Woman of the Year’s name is on the forms. If her party contains more than 8 people, please indicate who will sit together. We will attempt to seat them at nearby tables.

There will be a cash bar available during the social and banquet. Dietary restrictions will be honored, if possible. Please indicate in the space provided on the registration as to those restrictions. Dietary accommodation is at the discretion of the hotel. One meal is available which meets vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free guidelines.

PROGRAMS FOR AFFILIATES AND YOUNG MEMBERS (Deadline March 1, 2026)

Enclosed is information for the Affiliate of the Year and Golden Rose Award (for young women (14-21) who are involved in church activities and ministries) Please read the material for application submission,

CONVENTION PROGRAM/ ADVERTISING- see additional forms. (Deadline March 1, 2026)

This important form of advertising, congratulating, thanking, or recognizing is extremely helpful in defraying the cost of printing our convention program and other materials. (Many of our attendees look at the ads, first!) Please reach out to family, friends, and businesses you support or consider purchasing an affiliate, deanery, or individual ad. Congratulate your WOY, your priest’s ordination, anniversary, birthdays, and memories. Our personal contacts are the best resources. Prices are very reasonable and can reach over 150,000 Catholics in this state. **Additional copies of the letter and ad submission form are available on the DCCW website. Convention program ads and payment are due by March 1, 2026**

CONVENTION “THROW-DOWN” CHALLENGE (See enclosed flyer)

Always worth trying to win a free convention package for the 2027 Convention.

CENTERPIECES, RAFFLE, AND SILENT AUCTION ITEMS (see flyer)

Tradition asks that each affiliate provide **one centerpiece, one raffle item, and one silent auction item.** Individual donations are also graciously accepted. Proceeds from the raffle and silent auction are our only fundraiser source of income for the year. We appreciate your generosity and support. To assist in planning; Please let **Cynthia Acosta, Ways and Means Chair, know what you are donating and an approximate value by April 3, 2026. Reach Cynthia: Call/text 801-641-8288 or email acosc400@yahoo.com**

Please keep in mind that the ladies need to be able to see over the centerpieces when seated. The centerpiece drawing will be during Saturday's lunch hour, so keep them low enough to see over during the morning session.

UGLY PURSE Auction:

Deaneries and affiliates are invited to participate in the popular Ugly Purse Auction. Find the ugliest purse you can, to be filled with new, unused items valued at a minimum of \$25. The purses will be part of the silent auction, so make them fun! All purses should be tagged with the donor and the value. What is inside stays a surprise....no peeking!

POSTER SESSION

Let us see what you have been up to... "Tell your story." Display all the remarkable things your affiliate has done over the past year. We like innovative ideas and seeing how you flourish. The one time of year we all get a pat-on-the-back for our accomplishments..... well-deserved too. Please bring your own easel to display your poster, as we are not allowed to hang items on the walls in the conference rooms.

DCCW SERVICE PROJECT: WHAT TO BRING April 2025 (see enclosed flyer)

We will continue to collect our usual items: rosaries, eyeglasses, cancelled stamps (not forever stamps) , pull tabs from cans and mini hygiene products. There will be collection boxes for these items. We are also collecting items for: **The Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Monastery** in kind donations: walnuts, sugar, marshmallow crème, 8 oz. canning jars and gift cards. **Center of Hope** donations of Meals in a Can such as beef stew, lasagna, Spaghetti O's, beef ravioli, chicken & dumplings, mac and cheese, minestrone and lentil soups. (Pull top cans appreciated.)

CONVENTION DATES TO REMEMBER

Time seems to fly by and before you know it deadlines pass. Don't be caught off guard. Included in the packet is a compact list of deadlines. PRINT it out, POST it in a place it grabs your attention. **March 1st** will be here before you know it, followed quickly by **March 15th**. These are the 2 dates to remember. Act quickly...hope to see you April 18-19th at Little America Hotel.

There is a lot of information in this packet. Hopefully, it answers everything for 2026 DCCW Convention. The Convention committee is working hard to provide a joy-filled, spiritual, fun weekend for you. If you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to me at 601-862-7112 or email tennis1054@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you at the convention April 18-19, 2026.

Humbly yours in Christ,

Annette Pressley, DCCW President