

AWARE

A NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION OF THE
DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
An Affiliate of the National Council of Catholic Women since 1928

2026 WINTER ISSUE

DCCW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annette Pressley — St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Heights

tennis1054@aol.com

To say this last year and a half have been a blur would be an understatement. This will be my last AWARE report serving as your president and I cannot believe how quickly the time has passed. If you are with us at the Convention, you will be able to meet the new officers when they are installed on Sunday. If not, you will be hearing from them after Convention.

I cannot say enough about the outstanding group of women I have had the opportunity of being mentored by, working with, and learning from. It has, indeed, been an honor. If you are given the opportunity to join this group of women at the parish, deanery, diocesan, or even the national level, don't hesitate. While the going is not always easy; it is always fulfilling and will bring much joy to you. I have made mistakes, but the corrections and advice have always been kind and helpful.

I will continue to support the National Council of Catholic Women and ask you to do the same. If you are not a member of the NCCW, you should really consider a membership as a gift to yourself. It is a tremendous resource for your Councils of Catholic Women. You will receive the President's Pen monthly, the monthly magazine-Catholic Woman, and have access to member's only resources on the NCCW website.

If you haven't already, put the 2026 NCCW Convention on your calendar. It will be held August 26-29th in Grand Rapids, MI. If you never, been it is an experience that you will never forget.

As we bid adieu to the Jubilee of Hope marked by the closing of the door by Pope Leo on January 6th and sealed on January 17th, let us not forget the themes of hope, pilgrimage, and mercy. May we continue to experience spiritual renewal obtained during this year.

If nothing else, I hope we can all realize that we are in this together. If we work together, we can make things happen. While we might not be able to change every wrong in this world, we can give the good that we have been given to change what we can change.

St. Leo the Great taught that "it is a great and very precious thing in the sight of the Lord when the whole people of Christ apply themselves together to the same duties, and all ranks and orders ... cooperate with one and the same Spirit." In this way, "the hungry are fed, the naked clothed, the sick visited, and no one seeks his or her own interests, but those of others."

This is something we can do together. We may not always find immediate solutions to the problems we face, yet in every place and circumstance, we will be able to help one another -. While we are not good enough to change the world, we are good enough to make it better. In the words of Tolstoy, *Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.*

ANY UPDATES TO DCCW BOARD, DEANERY AND PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION, MUST BE EMAILED TO THE DCCW SECRETARY, TISHA RAMOS-YARBER, ASAP!

Patricia (Tisha) Ramos-Yarber

TISHA WILL FORWARD UPDATES TO NCCW

*Don't Miss Important Year-Round
Communications from DCCW & NCCW*

INDIVIDUAL NCCW MEMBERS NEED TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR PROFILE ONLINE OR CONTACT NCCW DIRECTLY



Remember

THE AWARE NEWSLETTER

Susan Espinoza, Editor
susane0101@gmail.com

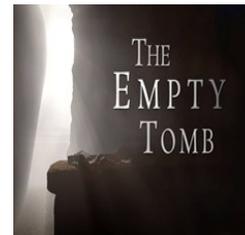
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Send info to: susane0101@gmail.com

Color copies of the AWARE are emailed to all those for whom we have email addresses. Please feel free to forward.

Due to the cost of postage, if you are receiving this by postal mail and have an email, please consider sending your email address to me. In order to streamline printing costs, all mailed copies will be in black and white.

DCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
Father Ariel Durian- St. Peter, American Fork
arieldurian@outlook.com



From the Cross of Salvation to New Life in the Resurrected Christ

At the heart of our Christian faith stands the Cross—an instrument of suffering transformed into the greatest sign of love. For us, as women of faith in the Council of Catholic Women of Salt Lake City, the journey from the Cross to the Resurrection is not only the story of Christ; it is the story of our own lives. It is a journey that invites us to trust, to endure, and ultimately to rise with Christ into new life.

The Cross: Love Poured Out

The Cross reminds us that salvation came at a cost. Jesus embraced suffering not as defeat, but as an act of total self-giving love. In our daily lives, we too carry crosses - family struggles, personal loss, illness, uncertainty, and the quiet burdens known only to God. When we unite these crosses with Christ's, they become pathways of grace rather than sources of despair.

As Catholic women, we are often called to stand where love is tested. Like Mary at the foot of the Cross, we learn to remain faithful even when answers are unclear. Her presence teaches us that steadfast love, silence, and prayer have redemptive power.

Faith in the Midst of Suffering

The Cross also teaches us that suffering is never meaningless when placed in God's hands. In moments of pain or sacrifice, Christ invites us to trust that God is working beyond what we can see. The Cross becomes a place of surrender - where our fears are offered and our faith is purified.

Within our parishes and communities, we are called to help one another carry these crosses. Through compassion, service, and prayer, we reflect the love of Christ to those who are weary and broken.

The Empty Tomb: Hope Fulfilled

The Resurrection reveals that the Cross was not the end of the story. The empty tomb proclaims that love is stronger than death and that hope always has the final word. In the Resurrected Christ, we find healing, renewal, and the promise of new life.

This new life is not reserved for heaven alone - it begins now. The Risen Lord invites us to live with courage, joy, and faith, allowing His victory to shape how we love, serve, and forgive.

Living as Women of the Resurrection

As members of the Council of Catholic Women of Salt Lake City, we are called to be women of the Resurrection - bearers of hope in a world longing for healing. Strengthened by Christ's victory, we are sent to proclaim by our words and actions that life conquers death, mercy overcomes sin, and light dispels darkness.

From the Cross of Salvation to new life in the Resurrected Christ, may our journey deepen our faith, strengthen our unity, and inspire us to live as joyful witnesses of God's saving love—today and always.

**DCCW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT /
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

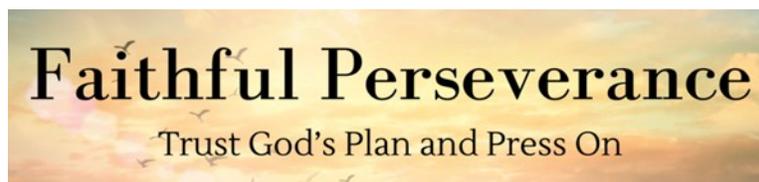
**Susan Porter — St. John the Baptist, Draper
portersm57@gmail.com**

It seems there is a National (or International) Day of “something” for every day of the year. Thankfully in January the USCCB observes the 22nd as a Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As I write this article, I am looking forward to the Respect Life events planned by the diocese this month and hoping many of my DCCW sisters will be attending. I became aware this year of a couple of other days celebrated in January. “National Take Down Your Christmas Tree” is January 6th, coinciding with the end of the 12 Days of Christmas and feast of The Epiphany. As Catholics, the celebration of our Savior’s birth continues until the feast of His Baptism, a day for us to reflect upon our own baptism and renew our baptismal promises.

Another day that caught my attention this year was “Quitter’s Day” on January 9th. Apparently research shows the second Friday in January is when most people drop their New Year’s resolutions. Wow! Only nine days to discover we may have overestimated ourselves. Intrigued by this notion, I looked for articles on this topic and how it relates to our faith life. I was pleasantly surprised to find several from both Catholic and Evangelical authors. Some suggested renaming the day “Perseverance Day” or “Recommitment Day.” There were many common themes throughout the articles. Although New Year’s resolutions are often rooted in good intentions, they either lack a good foundation or set unrealistic goals. Are we focused more on the temporal than the eternal? Lasting transformation requires perseverance, a gift from God when we cooperate with the Holy Spirit. When we become discouraged by our perceived failure, we are afraid to try again. Instead of trusting in His care, we are relying on our own resources for the strength to continue. Surrender to God assumes weakness, and God reminds us in 2 Corinthians 12:9 “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” It’s not about starting over once a year but knowing each day presents an opportunity to start anew. God never “quits us.” We just need to ask him again and again to show us the way. Some helpful suggestions given were to study scripture and the lives of the saints to see how others persevered when faced with adversity. Another was to seek partners on your journey who will encourage you and hold you accountable.

Our upcoming DCCW convention in April will provide that chance for us to gather with other faith-filled women from all around the state of Utah. “Our theme this year is “Believe in the Eucharist: Blessed, Broken, and Shared.” Once again, as your 1st Vice-President, I will be putting together the convention program book and will be seeking advertisements to help defray our printing costs. For more information on how you can support the DCCW, please see our website dccw.utah.org or contact your Affiliate President, Deanery President, or a DCCW Officer for details. I look forward to seeing you all there!

*“And let us not grow weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we don’t lose heart.”
(Galatians 6:9)*



**DCCW SECOND VICE PRESIDENT /
WAYS & MEANS**

Cynthia Acosta — St. Patrick, Salt Lake
acosc400@yahoo.com

The annual DCCW Convention will be held April 18-19, 2026 at Little America Hotel Salt Lake City. As part of our convention, the DCCW will be conducting its annual fundraiser with silent auction, general raffle, ugly bag raffle and centerpieces.

Each affiliate is asked to donate Two items to be used for the raffle and the silent auction value of at least \$50.00. To help with planning, please advise me of what items your affiliate will donate with a description and approximate value by **April 1, 2026**. If your item will require extra space or a special arrangement to display it to best effect, please include that information. Please arrange with the Deanery President when and how you will deliver your items to her. We will be setting up the raffle and silent auction on Friday evening April 17th and we need all items at that time to allow for proper arrangement.

Items that work for raffle and auction include: jewelry, artwork, gift certificates, themed gift baskets, and tickets to sporting events and performances.

Remember the new, never used contents of the ugly bags should have a value of at least \$25.00. The success of our fundraiser depends on the support, creative and generosity of our affiliates.

Please bring **One table centerpiece** of fresh flowers, live plants, or candles valued at least \$25.00. . Centerpieces will be given away as door prizes during our Saturday luncheon.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me **801-641-8288** or email me acosc400@yahoo.com

Thank you for your support & endless talent.

God Bless

Cynthia Acosta



WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Jennifer Streker, Co-Chair
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Margaret Sanchez, Co-Chair
St. Mary's, West Haven
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Nominate Your Woman for the 97th Annual Woman of the Year Banquet at the 2026 Annual DCCW Convention!

It's that time again to recognize the woman who has gone above and beyond in service to your parish! We are excited to announce the upcoming Woman of the Year award, to be presented at the DCCW Convention on April 18-19th at the Little America Hotel. Your Woman of the Year will be honored at the convention banquet on Saturday evening!

This prestigious award honors a woman who has selflessly contributed to the growth and well-being of her parish. Whether she works quietly behind the scenes or is actively involved in parish ministries and organizations, her dedication deserves to be recognized. The nominee may also include women who maintain the church, ensuring that the physical space is welcoming for all, or an older woman who can no longer serve but whose years of past contributions continue to inspire us.

To nominate a deserving woman, please submit a brief 100-word bio about her qualifications. The bio should highlight her contributions, dedication, and the impact she's had on the parish community.

Important Details: Deadline is March 1st please send the bio and a photo in a Word document format to Jennifer Streker, 4997 W 4750 South, West Haven, UT 84401 or email to strekerj@gmail.com . Detailed Woman of the Year Program information will be included in the Call to Convention packet, which will be distributed to affiliate presidents or pastors. If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to contact: Jennifer Streker 801-540-4342 or Margaret Sanchez 801-388-6841 – Woman of the Year Co-chairs.

We look forward to honoring the women who have made such a positive impact in our parish community!

The logo for the Woman of the Year award. The word "WOMAN" is in a large, bold, pink font. Below it, the words "OF THE YEAR" are stacked in a smaller, bold, pink font. The letter "O" in "WOMAN" is stylized to resemble a globe.

DCCW IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Barb Kerouac
St. Martin de Porres, Taylorsville
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The Glory of God and His great creation is so beautiful. We haven't seen much of this beautiful white snow this winter, but am praying for much more in January, February, and March. We need it for a better summer and much needed water for our state. Please Heavenly Father provide for our need according to your will.

Having heard the sad news of the passing of our cherished Msgr. Fitzgerald gives me reflection on one's life. He was such a joy to be with and served his flock in such a good-hearted spirit. I pray for the repose of his soul.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and perpetual light shine upon him.
May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen*

Now to the business at hand. We, the DCCW, are quickly approaching the Annual Convention April 18-19 at the downtown Little America, SLC. I am hopeful you will all come join in the gathering of Catholic Women from across the Diocese. It is always such fun to share in the spiritual renewal and informative speakers provided by the DCCW Board. To meet up with old friends and meet new ones is a great benefit of this convention. Each of you is a gift to the DCCW, member or not, you're welcome to come. Please consider membership to NCCW if you are not already a member.

We will be introducing the new 2026-28 executive board. The nominating committee has been reaching out to potential candidates to fill the positions of 1st VP, 2nd VP, secretary, and treasurer. We appreciate all those women who have prayerfully accepted the nominations. Your "fiat" is a blessing. If interested in any of these roles, please reach out to any of us on the nominating committee. You can find our contact info and the candidate information/application on the website. www.dccwutah.org.

While on the website, if you are a part of an affiliated parish, please consider filling out and submitting your parish affiliate for the "AFFILIATE OF THE YEAR" Award presented at the convention. You all do such marvelous work at your parishes and communities it is a well-deserved recognition of your gift of service.

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PARLIAMENTARIAN



At the 2025 DCCW Convention we passed four Resolutions. Do you remember what they are and have you acted upon them? Did you discuss them at your meetings or reflect on them in your personal life?

They were:

- The Catholic Choice of End-of-Life Care
- Supporting the Carlo Acutis Apostolate
- Understanding Grief from Pregnancy Loss
- Mental Health Illness and Challenges Awareness

I hope that you have used one of them as a discussion topic in one of your CCW Meetings this past year. Our 2026 Convention is right around the corner. Be ready for more resolutions to come your way. Use them as ideas for program speakers and/or projects for the upcoming year!

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (NCCW)

Amy Kennedy — President
Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City
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Listening, Serving, and Answering the Call

One of the great gifts of leadership in NCCW is how often it returns me to a simple yet challenging posture: listening.

Since my last article, I had the opportunity to attend the public sessions of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Plenary Assembly as an official observer. Sitting in those sessions — listening to debate, prayer, and discernment - provided a meaningful window into the pastoral concerns and hopes of our bishops. It was also a quiet reminder that leadership in the Church is not about position or authority, but about service: showing up, listening well, and responding with humility.

That spirit of listening has stayed with me in the weeks since, especially as I prepared for the upcoming NCCW Board of Directors meeting in Washington, DC. Board members from across the country will gather to reflect on recent months and to prayerfully discern the work ahead. Many will also participate in the March for Life, standing together in witness to the dignity of every human life. These moments - rooted in prayer, conversation, and shared purpose - are servant leadership lived out in very real and visible ways.

This posture of listening is also at the heart of our 2026 NCCW National Convention, which will be held August 26–29, 2026, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Our convention theme, *“Speak, Lord: Your Servant Is Listening,”* reflects both who we are and who we are called to be as Catholic women. I strongly encourage the women of the Salt Lake City DCCW to prayerfully consider attending this national gathering. Whether you have never attended a national convention or return year after year, the experience is deeply renewing - an opportunity to meet and be inspired by women from across the country and return home strengthened in faith and mission.

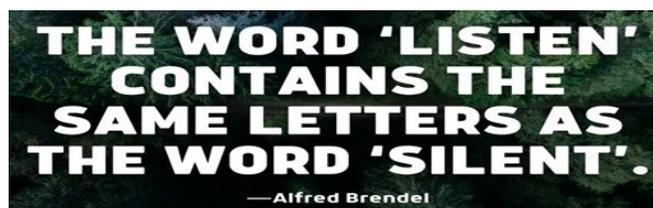
Our national Conventions remind us that we do not lead or serve in isolation. They offer time for prayer, learning, fellowship, and encouragement, and they renew our sense of purpose as women of faith and action. I hope many from our diocese will join us in Grand Rapids and add their voices, presence, and witness to this important moment in the life of NCCW.

As we move into this new year, I am deeply grateful for the women of the Salt Lake City DCCW and for the many quiet and faithful ways you live out servant leadership each day. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and your continued commitment to NCCW.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel pray for us as we listen and serve together.

Amy Kennedy

NCCW President



DCCW DIRECTORS OF MEETINGS

Marcie Downs, Co-Chair
marciedowns51@gmail.com

Jamie Beert, Co-Chair
beert2012@gmail.com

2026 DCCW Convention

We continue to work on the 2026 convention finalizing all the details.

It will be held April 18-19 at Little America.

This year we will not be having a Board Dinner, and the Board Meeting will be held the evening of April 17 in the Prayer Room.

The Registration Rates are :

Full Convention - \$285.00 Saturday Day & Mass - \$130.00 Banquet - \$98.00 Sunday - \$78.00

Hotel Room Rates are between \$169.00 - \$209.00 per night depending on room choice. There are rooms with 2 Queen Beds available this year and up to 4 people can stay in the room at that per night rate.

The information to book your room using the group code for the quoted rates will be part of the Call to Convention Packet.

Convention Planning - I will once again be holding periodic meetings via Zoom prior to convention. The purpose of the calls is to make sure everyone has what they need, that we are all on the same page, and answer any questions or concerns that may arise. The next meeting will be late January / early February.

Future Convention Ideas – Some of the top ideas that we will be concentrating our efforts on. The list includes:

Agenda / Speakers – More open time, Less speakers, Workshops/Activities, Move General Session to Saturday, Sunday focus more on spirituality

Work to get more Sponsors and Fundraising ideas

Have more exhibitors with dedicated space for attendees to visit their booths

Location of Convention – In Hosting Deanery area, Look at non-hotel venues as well as hotels

Hold other events throughout the year – to build community – maybe presentations as part of the DCCW meetings encourage more non-members to attend, could also spark more interest in attending convention once community is built.

Submitted by:

Jamie Beert

Marcie Downs

DOM Chairpersons



DCCW MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE TEAM

Michael O'Shea, Co-Chair
St. Anthony of Padua, Helper

Bonnie Siegrist, Co-Chair
Blessed Sacrament, Sandy

Like the name implies, MDR's (Membership Development and Resources) primary function is to help our Councils develop and grow their membership. This should be an ever-growing concern for all. We've previously encouraged all affiliates to read the NCCW resource *Regain, Retain, and GROW* available on the Members Only Resources tab on the NCCW website. If you haven't yet checked it out, please do so. We would also like to suggest a different resource. But first, a story.

So, have you ever had a book for a long time and wonder where you got it? This happened with the book *Joyful Momentum A Catholic Handbook, Growing and Sustaining Vibrant Women's Groups*, by Elizabeth Tomlin. We've had the book on display the last couple years at the MDR table at DCCW Conventions and at the Utah Catholic Conference. How or when we got it, is forgotten. Perhaps it was at an NCCW convention. Anyway, coincidentally, while looking for information for this AWARE article, which was going to be on communication, one of the search results stood out. It turns out it was the below free (albeit older) pre-recorded webinar with Elizabeth Tomlin on her book *Joyful Momentum*. So, of course, it deserved a listen.

[www.avemariapress.com Five Best Practices for Growing Vibrant Women's Groups in ...](http://www.avemariapress.com/Five-Best-Practices-for-Growing-Vibrant-Women's-Groups-in-Your-Parish)

Discover best practices for starting or enhancing a women's ministry in your parish with insights from Elizabeth Tomlin, who for nearly a decade has launched and built up Catholic women's groups.

In this webinar, she presents several best practices for starting a group in your community or building upon an existing women's ministry. This webinar will help you to consider foundational relationships in a parish women's group; women's ministry leadership as a call within a call; methods for outreach; and approaches to building a leadership team that helps women serve with their charisms.

The five (with one bonus) best practices she talks about are: the importance of communication and supporting one another, forming a relationship with your pastor, women's ministries as a "call with a call", being an "encourager", encouraging women to serve with their charisms, and being a mentor and seeking a mentor.

While we encourage reading the actual book, we hope you'll take a look and listen to this webinar. It's for all Catholic women, not just those in Council. Its free and another resource to help develop your group. If the above link doesn't work, this is the full URL: <https://www.avemariapress.com/pages/webinars-videos/five-best-practices-for-growing-vibrant-womens-groups-in-your-parish>

In the meantime, we hope to see you at the DCCW Convention in April. We'll have a copy of the book at our info table.



WANT TO SEE YOUR COUNCIL GROW?? I INVITE ONE NEW PERSON TO EVERY CCW MEETING AND EVENT .

Inviting ladies to join your Council is offering them an opportunity to enhance their lives while giving service to their church and community. It can be life changing. Our attitude, enthusiasm, and love of Council is contagious and encourages the stranger to attend a meeting or event. Think about all the wonderful things council

SPIRITUALITY COMMISSION

Gracemarie Belvedere , Chair
St. Marguerite, Tooele
gracemariebelvedere@gmail.com

Erin O'Shea, Co-Chair
St. Anthony of Padua, Helper
emo.shea@gmail.com

Winter, Lent, and a new year form a tapestry of renewal and transformation. Each season offers distinct yet complementary opportunities for spiritual growth. By embracing the quiet reflection of winter, the purposeful sacrifice of Lent, and the hopeful beginnings of the new year, we can emerge with a renewed spirit, ready to face the world with faith, courage, and love with these great suggestions.

Embrace Daily Prayer: Use the quiet of winter and the reflective nature of Lent to cultivate a deeper prayer life. Set aside a few moments each day to connect with God, whether through traditional prayers, scripture reading, or personal reflection.

Practice Acts of Kindness: Seek opportunities to show compassion and generosity, especially during Lent. Small gestures, like visiting someone who is lonely, volunteering, or helping a neighbor, can make a meaningful difference and embody Christ's love.

Nourish Your Faith Community: Participate in parish activities, Lenten programs, or online spiritual groups. Sharing stories and supporting one another builds a strong sense of belonging and helps you grow in faith together.

Focus on Renewal and Growth: Use this season to examine areas of your life that need renewal, whether it's letting go of worries, forgiving others, or deepening your understanding of Catholic teachings. Lent is a time for spiritual growth and new beginnings.

Find Joy in Stillness: Allow yourself time for quiet reflection, journaling, or simply enjoying God's creation. The slower pace of winter offers a perfect chance to appreciate blessings, nurture gratitude, and prepare your heart for the promise of spring.

Prayer for Winter and Lent in the New Year

Loving Lord, as the world around us is wrapped in the stillness of winter, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and hope. The chill of the season reminds us of the dormant beauty that lies beneath the surface, waiting for the warmth of spring to bloom anew. In this time, we seek your guidance and strength as we embark on our journey through this new year and navigate both the challenges and joys that lie ahead.

We ask for your blessings upon us. May we find strength in our struggles and courage in our challenges. Let us be resilient, like the hardy evergreens that withstand the harshness of winter, standing tall and steadfast. Grant us the wisdom to know that, just as winter will give way to spring, our trials will transform into triumphs through Your divine grace.

During the sacred season of Lent, inspire us to pause and reflect on our lives, nurturing our spirits and souls. Encourage us to seek renewal, both in our faith and daily lives. May we find peace in moments of quiet reflection and joy in acts of kindness and compassion. Help us to grow in understanding and love, sowing seeds of positivity and hope in the hearts of those around us.

May we find a sense of community and belonging, where we can share our stories, uplift one another, and support each other's dreams. Remind us that we are never alone, and that Your love and the love of those around us form a tapestry of care and support, woven tightly to hold us through the storms of life.

We give thanks for the countless blessings bestowed upon us and carry hope into this new year. May we embrace the promise of new beginnings, filled with opportunities for growth, learning, and love. In Jesus name, we pray,
Amen.

— By Gracemarie



DCCW SERVICE COMMISSION

Pat Voorhes, Chair

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

patricia.nccw@gmail.com

Help Us Feed Local Families
by donating to our DCCW
Convention Food Drive to
benefit the

Center of Hope

Bring Meals in a Can to the
DCCW Convention on Saturday,
April 18, 2026 such as:

Beef Stew
Lasagna
Spaghetti O's
Beef Ravioli
Chicken & Dumplings
Mac & Cheese
Minestrone Soup
Lentil Soup



Bring your eyeglasses to be
donated to the Lions Club

Bring your pop tabs for Ronald
MacDonald House



Bring your Rosary's and travel
hygiene items for St. Vincent de
Paul Shelter



Bring your cancelled stamps
for Holy Cross Ministries



For the Carmelite's

8 ounce canning jars/lids only
walnuts
sugar
marshmallow creme
or
gift cards

Please **DO NOT** bring
laundry soap, toilet paper,
greeting cards, stamps,
personal hygiene items or
cleaning supplies for the Nuns



Please Be Generous

DCCW LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Donna Murphy, Chair
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Brandy Farmer, Co-Chair
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The 2026 Utah State 67th General Session Legislature starts on January 20, 2026, and ends on March 6, 2026. The Women's State Legislative Council of Utah (WSLC) met on January 14, 2026, and heard from the longest serving female legislator Representative Carol Spackman Moss, Democrat from District 34. She is a retired teacher and serves on Education, Public Utilities and Energy Standing Committees. She reviewed many education issues and discussed a major concern where absenteeism is a growing concern. Approximately 20% of students are missing school on any given day partially because they are afraid of immigration issues of either their parents or they may be taken away by ICE. Another variable is there is not much of a consequence for children who are missing lots of academic time. She reviewed Governor Cox's Bell-to-Bell plan for students not to have cell phones during instruction time at school. The President of the Utah Senate Stuart Adams also spoke to WSLC and reviewed some upcoming issues as he supports no cell phone usage in the classrooms with the Bell-to-Bell plan. He talked about Proposition 4 with redistricting. The latest decision with a Utah court to add another congressional seat and uphold the lawsuit from League of Women Voters and Better Boundaries. There is also concern about limiting the number of bills that go through the general session as to prevent so many bills since last year there were 959 bills presented and 582 bills passed. The 2025 bill related to unions restricting collective bargaining will likely be a repealed bill due to so many civic employees' major outcry. Senator Nate Blouin has a Senate Bill (S.B.)136 Enforcement Activities Amendments which includes prohibiting state or local law enforcement officers from assisting with a federal immigration enforcement operation in a sensitive location or house of worship.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Action Center has an easy way for citizens to get involved by reviewing the latest issues of concern. There is one titled Encourage Congress to Support Religious Workers and the Communities They Serve. On the website you are able to submit your own profile and the email is sent directly to your Congressman in your district. Due to new immigration action there are many religious leaders as priests, religious brothers and sisters who are serving the church on the Religious Worker Visa Program who will be forced to abandon their ministries if Congress does not act soon. We need to show support for these foreign born religious workers who lawfully entered the United States on an R-1 Visa. This is a Bipartisan Religious Workforce Protection Act, RWPA S.1298/HR 2672 which was introduced in both chambers of Congress. It is the responsibility of Congress to reign in this Executive branch of government which has been creating chaos and havoc in American cities. Please use the web site www.usccb.org to have your voice be known. According to a recent announcement that Pope Leo has received an invitation to sign Trump's board of peace. He has not committed to this and needs time as seeing he is a critic of some of Trump's policies especially those related to treatment of immigrants. The media coverage of the chaos with DHS ICE agents with immigrants and citizens is very concerning. Let us all remember how as Catholics we need to be fair and just to all the immigrants who are here in America, as Jesus was an immigrant. May we help our friends and neighbors such as Catholic Community Services of Utah-Migration & Refugee Services who help refugees rebuild their lives in America. Immigration legal services are provided as more information is available on the web site of www.ccsutah.org . Please also remember how protestors need to be treated with respect as they are exercising their Right to Assemble peacefully which is part of our U.S. Constitution First Amendment with freedom of speech and press. Protesting is a way to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

DCCW LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

continued

There are multiple issues going on nationally from immigration, potential military action to other countries, to Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) not having accountability for some issues such as breaking into people's homes without a search warrant and incidents of ICE murders in American cities. According to their website of www.ice.gov. This law enforcement agency was created in 2002 under the Department of Homeland Security as a response to what happened on September 11, 2001 attacks. This past 2025 year it received a large budget of \$9.13 billion and is set to get \$76.5 billion which is nearly 10 times their annual budget. The fiscal year 2002 Appropriations was \$6,192,220.00. Since 2022 some agents have earned an average of \$86,280 per year and recently there have been large incentives such as signing bonuses of \$50,000 to recruit more officers. Their motto is "Protecting National Security and Upholding Public Safety". This is "Honor, Service and Integrity". We as citizens need to obey and respect law enforcement, federal and local as well as our military. They are in a service position where their lives may be at stake every day when they go to work. Overall the temperature needs to be lowered with this chaotic world we are living in and it starts with our Catholic obligation to be engaged in current events in our communities and nation wide. Please continue to pray for our political leaders to not engage in military action to take over Greenland or other countries which are less fortunate than we are based on the U.S. having a strong military force. This places us in a higher risk of war atrocities as our neighbors and allies with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have warned our government to not engage in. We do not need to place ourselves at risk of World War III. As we continue to pray for peace in our world with proper decisions from our political leaders to not Make American Groups Afraid. God Bless You All and God Bless America.

Please reach out to your Utah legislators by visiting the web site of www.le.utah.gov and let them know your Catholic views to help us feel safe & be safe as well as healthy. Please call or email me at 801-414-4725 or drmurphy21@outlook.com if you have any questions or want to be more involved or interested in visiting Women's State Legislative Council meetings on Capitol Hill during this legislative session which will end on March 6th, 2026. Thank you kindly.



Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Donna Murphy
Vicki Pope, Women's State
Legislative Council President



Senate President
Stuart Adams



Stuart Adams &
Carol Spackman Moss

EASTERN DEANERY
Becky Colombo, President
St. Anthony of Padua, Helper
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The women of the Eastern Deanery are excited to be involved with hosting the DCCW Convention in April at Little American Hotel. We will be meeting on February 8 in Vernal to discuss our duties and gathering a tentative number of women committed to attend to help. As President of the Deanery, I was a little bit panicked a month or two ago, since I had been very occupied with my husband's hospital stays and the situation of no CCW at St. Helen's parish in Roosevelt. However, things have come around and are looking brighter! Individual NCCW members in Roosevelt have already committed to attending the convention with the intention of helping in our Deanery duties, and my husband is getting better each day. Also, the CCW in Roosevelt met on January 12th and are active once again. God is good! Our Hostess Chairperson is the very capable Michelle Stratton, and our Convention Bag Committee Chairperson is my granddaughter, Dominique Kloepfer, who is equally capable and has great ideas! We hope each and every one of our parish affiliates will help in sending a donation to the DCCW Treasurer to help toward the cost of the convention bags. This has become pretty much a standard for helping whatever Deanery is hosting the convention each year (since the cost of everything seems to increase each year - just like our ages!) Haha!

Time seems to fly by so quickly, and it feels like we should still be back in September, instead of already past Christmas and New Year's, and looking at Ash Wednesday soon.

All three of our affiliates in the Eastern Deanery were busy during the holiday season and had many activities they participated in. During the interval when the Roosevelt CCW at St. Helen's parish were not actively meeting as a council, the women still met at each other's homes to continue their stewardship of making prayer blankets for those who were ill or hospitalized. My husband was one of those they blessed with a beautiful blanket, which was a wonderful surprise and delivered to Helper by Shirley Chappoose, a past co-president at St. Helen's. (The blanket is now my hubby's favorite!) The women are amazing and it is no wonder they received the Affiliate of the Year Award at last year's convention. Their love of God and stewardship is something we should all admire and strive for. They even had their own Advent Retreat at one of their homes and have continued to pray together and do good in God's name, through adversity and disappointment. Kudos to you all!

We hope as members of the DCCW and your own CCW councils, that you will plan to attend the convention in Salt Lake City on April 18 & 19 at Little America and support our current DCCW Board of officers in their efforts to enlighten our women with events such as convention.

God Bless!

President, Eastern Deanery, Becky Colombo



NORTHERN DEANERY

Cleo Mota , President
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SAINT MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, WEST HAVEN

December 2025: December 7th- For two weekends the ladies sold poinsettias for the church in order to decorate the altar for the Christmas season. We sold 60 poinsettias. The altar looked beautiful. December 9th- Held annual Advent Dinner at Hug-Hes Restaurant.

30 ladies and 1 Deacon attended. It was a very nice event. We had dinner and played our Christmas ornament giveaway game. The ladies enjoyed themselves. The dinner was in lieu of our December meeting. December 13th - Held our annual Christmas Bingo. It was a big success. We filled the room this year. We had raffles, food, and plenty of Bingo games. This event is one of the largest fundraisers we do during the year. The parishioners support the Bingo because they can bring out the whole family and have fun, and we have some great prizes for winners December 15th - CCW sponsored the first out of 9 Masses for the Simbang Gabi which is a devotional Filipino nine-day series of Masses in anticipation of Christmas. We participated in the procession and provided the meal for after the 1st Mass. The ladies were very honored to be a part.

January 2026: January 20th- We will hold our annual Infant Baby Jesus Shower. We hold a shower for baby Jesus. The ladies bring layette gifts for newborns up to 3 months of age. We play baby shower games, have potluck dishes the ladies provide, show off our gifts and finish off the shower by singing Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus. We donate all layette items to Catholic Community Services in Ogden for their St. Baby Martha project which provides layette items to new mothers. January 20th- Will begin our process for nominations for the Women of the Year and The Golden Rose Award. January 24th- The ladies will attend the Northern Deanery "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" Social.

January 27th- Women's Adoration. February 2026: February 9th- Will Donate \$300 to the Boys Scout for assisting the CCW with Bingo night.

Submitted by: Margaret Sanchez, CCW President
December 2025 - February 2026 Affiliate Report

SALT LAKE DEANERY
Susan Vaughn, President
St. Vincent de Paul, Holladay
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Cathedral

December was a very full and meaningful month for us. On December 13th, we held a rosary and hot cocoa social that had a great turnout. Our spiritual chair led us through the rosary, and it was a beautiful time of prayer and fellowship.

On December 14th, we were happy to support the Carmelite nuns by selling their candies, jams, and breads before and after the 8:30 and 11:00 Masses. While it was not a fundraiser for our group, we were grateful for the opportunity to help support them during the holiday season.

We also attended the Christmas carol service at the cathedral on December 17th as a group. We all wore red and festive corsages, which helped us stand out, and we sat together in the front row. It was a special and memorable evening.

To wrap up the month, we volunteered our time and donated candy and a piñata for the Las Posadas celebration on December 21st. It was a joyful way to serve and be part of the cathedral community.

Catholic Women's League

Catholic Women's League Report January 2026. The Catholic Women's League will meet for the first time on January 27th. Our agenda includes discussing our upcoming event, the annual Spring Tea that will benefit Girls State. The date will be March 22nd, 2026. We are always in need of new members to join us who could fill some of our open positions. Contact me if you would be interested. We did hold our annual Valentine card making January 10th hosted by Narda Nordell. She then takes them to the Veterans Hospital to cheer up the armed services that have fought for our country. Last year they received 200 cards. She does a great job. More report to follow as the New Year begins.

Sincerely, Lorraine West President

St. Marguerite

September St. Marguerites hosted the Deanery Meeting which turned out very successful.

October proposed upcoming service projects, we did a donation for Red Box which turned out to be successful we also did a baby drive which turned out very good.

November, we hosted a St Celia Concert.

December, we had our Santa Breakfast, we also helped the Knight of Columbus with their 50th anniversary Banquet. Bishop Solis was a honorary guest.

St. Vincent de Paul

Our Council put on a lovely dinner after the Diaconate Ordination Holy Hour in November. Our Deacon shared spiritual information about the Jubilee Year of Hope at our November meeting. We created Fall and Christmas centerpieces to be used in our Holy Family Hall throughout the season.

In December we participated in a Reverse Advent Calendar to gather items for the Food Banks in our area. We also gathered items for a care center in our parish boundaries. We had a great Christmas celebration and continue to bring in new members through personal invitations given after the masses.

In January we are having a Wine/Chocolate/Book Sharing social, February we will make Valentines for the residents at the Inn Between.

We continue to prayer for clergy and help with coffee and donuts and stuffing the weekly bulletins.

We are looking forward to convention and will be hosting the Salt Lake Deanery Spring Luncheon on March 14th, which will have a St. Patrick's Day theme, please join us.

SALT LAKE DEANERY

continued

St. Patrick's

We run the monthly Bingo on the first Saturday of the month.

We decorated the Hall for Christmas and provided the candy for the Christmas/ Pageant party.

We did Sub for Santa for the Men's Rescue Mission.

We made up 100 Candy bags for the kids at the homeless shelters.

There were 4 Funerals, and we helped in the kitchen for the luncheons.

We continue to send \$200.00 donations to the Carmelites.

St. Ann's

St Ann Ladies guild has been very busy. We did a very successful Giving Tree project, a Christmas gift project for 54 shut-ins, and a Christmas Bake sale.

In January we will be doing a Warm Wishes collecting new and used clothing.

St. Olaf's

Saint Olaf's CCW continues to join the First Friday adoration and say a rosary during the last hour.

We continue to offer coffee and doughnuts after Masses on Sunday.

We held our annual stocking stuffer and parish potluck on December 6th. We partnered with the Ladies of Charity to put together 83 sets of baking goods that are rarely donated for their Centre of Hope food pantry.

We held an advent mini retreat on December 14th after both Sunday masses with a total of 23 people.

Secret Santa was done between Christmas and New Year's for three parishioners.

In January, we will have a fascinator making event prior to our annual tea party fundraiser in February with an Alice in Wonderland fundraiser.

We will hold bunco games on January 17th. Prizes will be given.

By the end of January, seven members will have completed safe environment training.

Reinette Schultz, President, CCW 2024-2026

SOUTHWESTERN DEANERY
Jennifer Enman, President
Christ the King, Cedar City
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The new year brings many changes for all of us, but especially with the Southwestern Deanery. Our wonderful President, Mary Skomal, has some health issues she has been contending with. Knowing her road to recovery will take some time, she has decided to step aside and let me take the reins. Mary is so grateful for all the love and prayers being sent her way, and I am very grateful to all the ladies who have welcomed me with such kindness and offered so much help! As the new year begins, there are so many things to look forward to.

Christ the King has been involved with our youth quite a bit helping with Operation Christmas Child and our Youth Retreat. The CWC had guest speakers from “Circles” at their last meeting. Circles is a community-based program that helps families break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. We hope to have some Circle leaders in Iron County in the future. The CWC will also be hosting a bereavement luncheon for our widows and widowers and those who have lost a loved one recently.

The St. George parish has been very busy as well! Their Christmas bake sale generated \$2400.00 in sales over one weekend. The CWC also distributed Smith’s grocery store gift cards for families in need during the holiday season. The Sunshine Committee attended several funerals including Ida Bittmenn the mother of the parish priest. They handed out prayer shawls to the bereaved family members. The Sunshine Committee also visited some assisted living facilities and gave out beautiful quilts donated by member Brenda Wey. The diaper/bottle drive they held took in over \$8000.00 and 6000 diapers! The funds will go to pro-life activities and the Well Pregnancy Resource Center. Lastly, at their February meeting they look forward to a guest speaker, the director of a Christian based maternity home that recently opened in St. George.

Both parishes look forward to Convention in April!

WASATCH DEANERY

Gabby Gauchay , President
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HAPPY NEW YEAR! New Year - Same GOOD GOD! This time of year is always a favorite of mine. The warmth of the holidays lingering - the thrill of a fresh start - and can I tell you that I LOVE planning?! I love a new planner, with blank pages waiting to be filled with goals, hopes, dreams and the meetings, events, parties and appointments that make those goals and dreams a reality!

Where will God take us this year, ladies?

This year in particular, is exciting for our Deanery and Diocesan Council of Catholic Women - as it is a nominating year! We will vote in new officers, new callings, ideas and adventures will begin! I am so grateful that this time, 4 years ago - while laying in a dark room with Covid, I answered my phone to the WDCCW nominating committee. Though my YES was not a confident yes, one filled with many uncertainties and doubts, God has blessed me in my roles and I would like to think that I have done His will in my small way.

Where will God take YOU this year?

How are you responding?

The end of 2025 was busy for many of our affiliates as they prepared and executed some very successful events. **Blessed Sacrament, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Martin de Porres and St. Joseph the Worker** held their annual boutiques to spread crafts and holiday cheer around their parishes! **St. Peter** participated in their parish's Holiday Bazaar and **St. Thomas More** hosted another fabulous ladies luncheon in conjunction with their holiday boutique.

I was pleased to see that throughout our deanery, many of our groups had the elderly in mind through the holidays. **St. Peter's** ladies got together to make sure that the elderly folks in their parish received a visit from someone in their group. **St. Thomas More** has made over 150 Valentine's Cards to distribute to various local assisted living spaces.

Community is always at the forefront of our minds, because, well - we were made to be in communion with each other! Through the last few months our groups enjoyed holiday parties, gift exchanges, dinners and much more. **St. Francis of Assisi** participated in a women's Advent devotional group, getting together on Saturday mornings for tea and to discuss the week's readings. **St. John the Baptist** held a wonderful Wine Pairing event that welcomed not only the women of their parish, but the men as well! **St. Francis Xavier** held a potluck social and is looking forward to hosting a "wellness night" this month! **St. Joseph the Worker** had a mini-retreat for their November meeting, entitled *Turning to Mary During Advent*, and had their annual Christmas party in December.

And lastly, we would be nothing if we weren't serving. Our groups keep themselves busy with many service projects. **St. Francis Xavier** participated in Coats for Kids and also held a night to make hygiene kits! **St. Thomas More** had a great time packing up Box of Joy! And **St. Martin de Porres** hosted a movie night, where they watched a film on homelessness and had a great discussion afterward. **St. Joseph the Worker** is planning on some projects with the Knights of Columbus this year.

Our Deanery is invigorated for the New Year - we are ready to answer the call and to serve God's people.





The Diocese of Salt Lake City
Council of Catholic Women
Annual Convention



Join us
Saturday & Sunday
April 18th - 19th
at the Little America Hotel, SLC

a weekend of spiritual encounter & renewal

Guest Speaker: Carol Ruddell

Service Commission: Mary Ellen Dworshak & Sister Germaine Sarazzin

Spiritual Commission: Amy Kennedy, Current NCCW President



Keynote Speaker: Marie Miller

*"The Way of Love, a special musical presentation
on the teaching of Saint Therese of Lisieux"*

Scan Me!



Believe in the Eucharist



Blessed + Broken + Shared

For more information & registration forms, visit our website
<http://www.dccwutah.org>
or contact your parish's womens group!