

Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Diocese of Salt Lake City Council of Catholic Women  
April 27-28, 2024  
Little America Hotel, Salt Lake City  
*Path of Renewed Encounter*

**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

**Welcome:** 8:30 am: Barb Kerouac, DCCW President and Convention Chair, welcomed everyone to the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Salt Lake City Council of Catholic Women.

**Opening Prayer Session:** Susan Espinoza, Spirituality Commission Chair, Susan Vaughn, Maureen Gardner led the Morning Prayer service. Piano accompaniment was provided by Jenni Fazio.

**Presentation of the Colors and Pledge of Allegiance:** Girl Scout Troop #859 led by Amy Avery presented the colors and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Amy and her twin daughters are Parishioners at St Ambrose.

**Convention Welcomes:**

Rev Ariel Durian, DCCW Spiritual Advisor, welcomed attendees. He spoke about how women shape the course of our Faith. We are providing strength and inspiration from examples we set during difficult times that life can bring. He encouraged us to engage with each other, share stories and learn from each other at this convention. He reminded us that we are all one in this mission with Jesus. He ended with enjoy and be joyful!

Mary Skomal, Southwest Deanery President and Convention Host, thanked everyone for attending. She thanked all her volunteers from the Southwest Deanery, saying they may be a small group, but they gather strength together. She concluded with wishing all a good time, enjoy and God Bless you all.

Carol Harley, DCCW First Vice President/President Elect, offered the DCCW welcome. She thanked Mary Skomal and the Southwest Deanery for all their work, Cheryl Johnson for her work with convention registration, Karen Fawbush for hotel registration and Becky Hicks for her work as director of meetings. She asked for all to have patience with our new location and to let her know if your Ad was missing from the program.

**Introductions:** President Barb Kerouac introduced the head table.

**Minutes:** Jamie Beert, DCCW Secretary reported the minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual 2023 DCCW Convention were approved at the April 26, 2024, DCCW Board Meeting.

**Credentials Report:** President Barb Kerouac introduced Cheryl Johnson, Convention Registration Chair. Cheryl reported the credentials for this convention:

Package A (Full Convention): 176

Package B (Saturday): 57

Package C (Banquet): 243

Package D (Sunday): 11  
Total Packages A, B & D: 244  
Total Banquet Attendees Package A & C: 419  
Women of the Year: 28; Religious: 15; first time attendees for Package A & B: 39

**Acknowledgements:** President Barb Kerouac recognized the clergy in attendance and thanked them for their service to the Church.

**DCCW President's Report:** President Barb Kerouac announced she will not be reading her report. She encouraged everyone to visit the DCCW website to read her report. She reminded us this is our 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention and to continue on our "Path of Renewed Encounter" for another 95 years. She reminds us that when we are searching to find our way, John 14:6 tells us how, "Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. She asked us to strengthen our journey together, living the Beatitudes and serving others by Corporal Works of Mercy. She thanked the Southwest Deanery, small in numbers but mighty in works, as well as the convention committee who all worked to keep things organized to provide a great experience at convention. She expressed gratitude to the DCCW Board members and all the Past Presidents. She shared her last task working with Jeanne Audiss to hold a Leadership Training Course with the NCCW Leadership Training and Development Team on May 18 at Blessed Sacrament. She concluded with "May our Heavenly Father continue to bless the DCW. Our Lady of Good Council pray for us and guide our organization in years to come, I ask this through our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ."

**San Francisco Province Director Report:**

Jeanne Audiss, San Francisco Province Director, asked us to keep Pat Voorhes and her husband Wayne in our prayers. She thanked all the Religious in attendance. She shared that the Salt Lake Diocese was the most dynamic and involved Diocese in the Province. There are no affiliates in Las Vegas, 2 individual members in Santa Rosa California, 3 Affiliates and 2 Individual members in Sacramento and 26 Affiliates, 5 Deaneries, 64 individual members from Salt Lake. Salt Lake Diocese currently has 3 members on the National Board.

**NCCW President Elect Report:**

Amy Kennedy, NCCW President Elect, wished us a fruitful, meaningful, and Spiritual 95<sup>th</sup> convention. She reminded us about the upcoming 104<sup>th</sup> NCCW convention in Oklahoma City this August. She reminded all members to vote for the treasurer position. She encouraged those who are not individual members to join, Jeanne has the membership forms. She shared the NCCW President Beth Mahoney's theme of "Women on a journey, sharing our story".

**Guest Speaker:**

Deacon Joaquin Mixco spoke about restorative justice. He discussed how to serve the incarcerated. He is serving at St Martin de Porres Parish. He works with the incarcerated at the Salt Lake County Jail. He explained what the Prison Ministry is all about and how we can help. He shared the experiences he encounters when visiting the jail, as well as some great insight to the internal workings and life of the prisoners. He also shared that restorative justice is about the victims, and we have a long way to go to get those programs implemented. All humans should be treated with humanity and dignity. If looking for ways to donate items, he strongly recommended ordering through [www.dismasministry.org](http://www.dismasministry.org), as all items from them are prison approved.

**Announcements:** Carol Harley announced there will be confessions offered from 10:30 – 11:00, we have 3 priests available. She shared location of restrooms, Silent Auction/Raffle rooms, and that we would resume at 11:00 to have all the past Presidents gather for a picture. She also announced there was a prayer basket in the prayer room to place prayer intentions. The prayer intentions will be taken to Mass at the Cathedral. She reminded everyone to fill out the membership surveys. She invited all to view the posters from the affiliates displayed in the hallway. She recognized the Emerald level sponsor, Elaina Rodriguez with EWTN, and Diamond level sponsor, Javier's Authentic Mexican Food. She introduced the Vendors: Immaculate Heart Religious Goods and the Carmelite Nuns, and the Exhibitors: Pregnancy Resource Center, NCCW information and volunteer sign up for Convention, and Eucharistic Rally information / volunteer sign up. She encouraged everyone to visit the raffle/silent auction room. She asked attendees to fill out the evaluation form that was included in the convention packets. She reminded all to visit the NCCW and Eucharistic Revival Mass and Rally table to sign up to volunteer.

**Recess:** 10:30 a.m. **Reconvene:** 11:00 a.m.

**Service Commission Speaker:** President Barb Kerouac recognized Ruth Penderghast, DCCW Service Commission Chair. Ruth introduced Katherina Holzhauser. Her theme was "Martha, Martha. Moving toward a listening heart". She took us on a journey into the Gospel of Luke with Martha asking Jesus to tell Mary to help (Mary was sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to him). She had us reflect on why did Martha feel this way and why did Martha ask Jesus to help. In this Gospel reading, Jesus responds, "Martha you are upset. Mary has chosen the better". She discussed how we, like Martha focus on the wrong things and are quick to judge. We are quick to say, "They didn't do anything". We need to learn to quit focusing on tasks and look at the bigger picture. Mary offered every day up to the Lord. Martha loves Jesus but gets caught up in the tasks. Katherina then delved into what can we do when we become Martha. How can we serve more like Jesus? She suggests to withdraw, reflect and pray. Stop thinking about what needs done, who is helping, what other are doing or not doing. Absorb yourself in prayer. Once you have re-grounded, then get to the tasks. She also discussed how to listen first. Jesus doesn't jump in immediately, he would wait, listen, and learn. She used the wedding in Cana, Lazarus and the adulteress as examples. In all those cases, he watches and waits before acting. He always responds with compassion, mercy, humility and understanding. Doing service starts with a listening heart. When you are becoming Martha, hear Jesus's voice saying, "Rest your worries in me. Let me be your guide".

**Announcements:** Vice President Carol Harley asked attendees to support the on-site vendors, sign up to volunteer at the Eucharistic Revival Rally and NCCW Convention. She also encouraged everyone to visit the raffle/silent auction room, view the poster session, and fill out the evaluation form.

**Recess:** 11:00 a.m. **Reconvene:** 11:15 a.m.

**Recess:** 11:52PM

**Announcements:** Vice President Carol Harley reminded attendees to visit the Prayer Room, silent auction/raffle room and vendors. Becky Hicks took headcount for Bus to Cathedral. She reminded us that the WOY picture will be done at the Cathedral and WOY should be on last bus leaving the Cathedral.

**Lunch:** 12:00 p.m. Lunch was served with a blessing of the food by Fr. Durian.

**Lunch Activities:**

Vice President Carol Harley announced the Winners of Our Lady of Good Counsel Awards. For attendance, 3<sup>rd</sup> place St Francis of Assisi with 15 Package A; 2<sup>nd</sup> place Blessed Sacrament with 16 Package A; and 1<sup>st</sup> place was Christ the King with 18 Package A.

For mileage, 3<sup>rd</sup> place was St Helen's, Roosevelt with 1,440 miles traveled; 2<sup>nd</sup> place was St. George, St. George with 3311 miles traveled: and 1<sup>st</sup> place Christ the King, Cedar City, with 4536 miles traveled.

Throw-Down Challenge to recognize increased Convention attendance: Winners were announced by Dawn Haberkorn, Leadership Commission Chair. One Package A and one Package B for the 2025 Convention were awarded to Blessed Sacrament (Package A) and St Anthony's (Package B).

Our Lady of Good Council Affiliate of the Year honors were announced by Chairpersons Pat Voorhes and Becky Colombo. Pat encouraged all affiliates to apply for next year's award. There were five affiliates who applied. The advisory board was amazed at how much our affiliates were doing. Third place was awarded to St. George; second place was awarded to St. Mary's; and the 2023 Affiliate of the Year was St. Martin de Porres. The three affiliate presidents came up to receive their awards. All were congratulated on receiving this outstanding service award.

Golden Rose award – Barb Kerouac reminded us this award is to recognize young women ages 14-22 who live their faith and have a servitude heart. There were 6 young women nominated, all very worthy and made the selection of just one difficult. Reviewing their packets shows we have a hopeful and bright future for Catholic women in Utah. President Kerouac presented the first annual Golden Rose award to Leylahni Muguia Ayon from St James the Greater. She serves as a lector, cantor, Eucharistic Minister, Choir director and Parish Secretary, while enrolled at Central Wyoming College and working 2 other jobs. She also tutors students and participates in a program helping students who struggle to read. She has spent time living with the Dominican Sisters where she witnessed religious women committing to a holy life. She was presented with a lovely gold cross necklace and certificate. She will have her name submitted for the NCCW Golden Rose award. Congratulations!

Jennifer Street conducted the centerpiece drawings, and a brief break was taken.

**Recess:** 01:05 p.m. **Reconvene:** 01:30 p.m.

**Keynote Speaker:** President Barb Kerouac introduced the keynote speaker, Yen Fasano. She is from Minnesota and the newly minted Executive Director of the Bethany Center for Prayer and Renewal. Prior to this calling, she was President of the Catholic Services Appeal Foundation and Associate Director of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of St Paul / Minneapolis. She is a retreat leader and national speaker. Yen started saying she was with us because she answered God's invitation. God is generous and giving, and we still ask for more. She guided us to use reasoning (what is happening, become aware of people and places, and use words that catch attention), use imagination (put yourself in the scene, observe and participate and discover who you are), and reflect on what God is saying to your heart with all your spiritual senses. We are made in love, by love and for love. You are who God says you

are, not who others say you are or who you think you are. As women, we are hard on ourselves, we amplify the negative and minimize the positive. We need to learn to value Jesus inside ourselves. We need to learn to ask for help when we need it. God wants us to depend on him. Our pride causes us to isolate ourselves. Remember it's not who you are but Whose you are. You are already enough, worthy enough, loveable, just bloom! Live with Grace:

G – Gratitude

R – Reflect and Review the day and your emotions

A – Ask for forgiveness and grace to be better

C – Call on God

E – End conversation – hope for a better tomorrow

She reminded us to be something, not do something. Find humility of surrendering your fear, self-interest and pride. We just need to BE.

**Call to 2025 Convention:** President Barb Kerouac recognized Stacey Oliveto, Salt Lake Deanery President for the call to our 2025 Convention. The ladies of the Salt Lake Deanery created a song using the Village People's "YMCA" to invite us to come next year!

**Announcements:** Becky Hicks, Director of Meetings, provided information about buses to the Cathedral and reminded WOY to stay after Mass for their picture. resident Barb Kerouac announced that after the Closing Prayer, there is an opportunity to spend time with the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration in the Prayer room. There is also the opportunity to have confessions heard in the Alta room. There are three Priests available. Also, take time to visit the Eucharistic Miracles Display. Be mindful of times as it will be a tight schedule before heading to the Cathedral for Mass.

**Closing Prayer:** Susan Espinoza and Susan Neilson led the closing prayer, accompanied by Jenni Fazio.

**Recess:** 3:17 p.m. for Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine.

**Reconvene:** 7:45 p.m.

**Woman of the Year Banquet:** President Barb Kerouac welcomed all present and introduced the head table. She then recognized all the past Presidents of the DCCW who were present at the banquet.

**Invocation:** Fr Ariel Durian introduced the Clergy and Religious present and then offered tonight's invocation.

**Woman of the Year Presentation:** President Barb Kerouac introduced Bishop Oscar Solis for his remarks.

Bishop Solis welcomed all.

Susan Neilson and Lydia Farnell, Woman of the Year Co-Chairs, introduced the Women of the Year for 2024. Bishop Solis and Fr. Durian presented each woman with the Our Lady of Good Counsel medal. 28 Women of the Year were recognized.

**Announcement:** President Barb Kerouac congratulated all the Women of the Year on their well-deserved distinctions. She thanked all for attending.

**Recess:** 09:30 PM

## **Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**Eucharistic Adoration:** 7:00 a.m.

**Rosary:** 7:30 a.m.

**Reconvene:** 8:30 a.m.

**Opening Remarks:** President Barb Kerouac welcomed those in attendance, reminding us to silence our cell phones. She then recognized Spirituality Commission Chair Susan Espinoza.

**Prayer Service:** Spirituality Commission Chair Susan Espinoza, Machel Montoya, and Yen Fasano led the Morning Prayer service. Piano accompaniment was provided by Jenni Fazio.

**Breakfast:** 9:00 a.m. Fr. Ariel Durian, DCCW Spiritual Advisor, gave the blessing and breakfast was served.

**Announcements:** Carol Harley invited everyone to visit the raffle/silent auction room and to support our on-site vendors. She also encouraged everyone to complete the convention evaluation form.

**Reconvene:** 10:00 a.m.

**Spirituality Commission Speaker:** President Barb Kerouac recognized Susan Espinoza, who introduced guest speaker Marie Mischel. Her theme was "Creating an Encounter: An Introvert's Guide to Talking to Strangers". She shared that we need to be able to communicate to share our spirituality. She also reminded us that listening is much more than hearing. Our society is seeing an increase in closed and intolerant attitudes, ignoring others, which ends in no communication. We are not listening, but concentrating on what we are going to say next. How can we build as a fraternity of Men and Women of God? We need to communicate better, we need to have a welcoming attitude and listen attentively. After you listen, then you can enter into a conversation. We need to build relationships. We need to share doubts and fears. We need to listen, not just to what someone is saying, but what they may be trying to say. Listen with hope and not contempt. She shared that being afraid to talk to strangers is a selfish perspective, it is not all about you. Have the conversation without worrying about looking dumb or making a mistake. To communicate well, listen by focusing on what the other person is saying, not what you need to say. Ask questions, respectfully, one question at a time and listen to the answer, pay attention to tone and body language, not just their words. She had us do an exercise, where one person only asked questions and the other person only answered the questions. Was very insightful and educational to stay quiet after asking question and really listen to the answers given. Marie also recognized all the first-time attendees at the convention.

**Announcements:** President Barb Kerouac reminded everyone if they would like the Blessed Carlos Acutis Eucharistic Miracles Display for their parish to contact her. Carol Harley reminded everyone to get in your bids for the silent auction items and raffle tickets.

**Recess:** 10:45 a.m. for hotel check out. **Reconvene:** 11:15 a.m.

**General Session/Business Meeting:** President Barb Kerouac welcomed everyone to the Sunday session of the 94<sup>th</sup> annual Convention.

**Convention Welcome:** Fr. Durian welcomed attendees and reminded us to take lessons learned and connections we have made at convention with us back to our Parishes. He asked we continue boldly on our renewed path. He asked us to be open to prompts from the Holy Spirit and to grow in service to one another with the unconditional love from God. We as a sisterhood share strength and inspiration to others. He encouraged us to strive to bring grace and joy to our families and communities. He thanked us all for responding to our mission. President Barb Kerouac presented Fr Ariel with a statue of St Ambrose, the Patron Saint of Beekeepers, as he is a great Beekeeper of our busy bees, all the ladies of council.

**Hosting Deanery President:** President Barb Kerouac recognized Mary Skomal, Southwest Deanery President. Mary thanked the women of the Southwest Deanery for all their hard work, Nadia for her great work on the bags, and Kathy Fazio as her beacon of strength. Barb thanked her and all the women of the Southwest Deanery for all their work. She recognized they are a small but mighty Deanery!

**Welcome Response:** President Barb Kerouac introduced Carol Harley, First Vice President / President Elect to present the Welcome Response. Carol remarked what an amazing convention this has been. She thanked the Southwest Deanery, Barb Kerouac, Cheryl Johnson for all her work with registration, and Karen Fawbush for her work with the Hotel registrations. She also thanked her daughter Michelle for all the work on the programs. She wants us all to come again next year!

**Introductions:** President Barb Kerouac introduced the head table.

**Final Credentials Report:** Cheryl Johnson, Convention Registration Chair, reported:

Package A (Weekend): 176

Package B (Saturday): 57

Package C (Banquet): 243

Package D (Sunday): 11

Total Packages A, B & D: 244

Total Banquet attendees: 419

Women of the Year: 28; Religious: 15; first time attendees for Package A, B: 39

Cheryl thanked all those who helped work the registration table.

**Resolutions:** Parliamentarian Casey Pond proposed the following resolutions, 1) An Invitation to Encounter; 2) Upholding the Dignity of All.

Casey read the resolutions. President Kerouac announced that the Parliamentarian has proposed adoption of the four 2023 resolutions by this Convention. Casey moved to adopt the resolutions. No discussion to the Motion followed. The motion was approved by the assembly.

**Installation of 2024-2026 DCCW Officers and Deanery Presidents:** Fr. Durian, Amy Kennedy, NCCW President Elect, Jeanne Audiss, San Francisco Province Director and Immediate Past President Becky Columbo presided over the installation of:

DCCW officers:

Treasurer – Gaylynn Huffman

Secretary – Tisha Ramos-Yarber

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Cynthia Acosta

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President/President Elect – Annette Pressley

Deanery Presidents:

Northern – Cleo Mota

Salt Lake – Susan Vaughn  
Wasatch – Gabby Gauchay  
Eastern – Becky Colombo  
Southwest – Mary Skomal

President Barb Kerouac thanked all the officers and Deanery Presidents for committing themselves to serving our organization for the next two years. Thank you!

**Closing Prayer:** Susan Espinoza led the assembly in the closing prayer service.

**Recognition of President Barb Kerouac:** Becky Colombo thanked Barb for all her work as President these last two years. She has been a great leader and accomplished a lot with the extra events of last year, Eucharistic Revival and NCCW Convention. She handled them like a pro.

**Raffles and Silent Auction:** Tish Ramos-Yarber, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President/Ways & Means Committee Chair, conducted the raffle, ugly purse and silent auctions. She thanked everyone for supporting the vendors, for purchasing tickets and placing bids on the auction items.

**Final Remarks:** President Barb Kerouac thanked everyone for making it a memorable and enjoyable weekend. She remarked it's time for her to pass on the gavel and join the ranks as the Immediate Past President. Trust in Jesus and the Holy Spirit to lead you and all will be according to God's will. She then presented Carol Harley as the new DCCW President to officially adjourn the meeting.

**Adjournment:** 12:45 p.m. President Carol Harley adjourned the convention.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Beert  
DCCW Secretary