

Diocese of Salt Lake City Council of Catholic Women April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

President's Report

The time since my last report in January has been such a blur filled with all things Convention. I have loved coming to Convention ever since I was first chided into coming over 10 years ago by a dear friend and have not missed a year since. My takeaway is that I will never take any convention for granted. As you sit in your seat enjoying the fellowship, food, speakers, prayers, raffle baskets, and the terrific convention bags remember all the hard work, by so many, that went into making this an enjoyable and memorable event for you.

I attended the San Francisco Province Meeting in San Francisco in March along with Jeanne Audiss, Carol Harley, Jessica Jurkowski, and Amy Kennedy. It was a wonderful one-day event filled with prayer, speakers, and fellowship. We were able to attend a beautiful Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption.

As I sit, trying to decide on something that might be inspirational, I was at a standstill. Suddenly I remembered about the upcoming canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis, our first millennial saint, 3 May 1991 – 12 October 2006, who died at the age of 15 from leukemia. He will be canonized on April 27<sup>th</sup>. It has been quite the buzz. On my way to Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, I turned on the radio and who should I hear but Fr. Gustavo Vidal, Director of the Carlo Acutis Apostolate and Michael Edwards, Director of the Diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry on KRCL, not a radio station I would have thought of. It was the broadcast of one of their weekly shows called RadioACTIVE. I was captivated and excited. It made me realize how this was not just a "Catholic thing" but something everyone was curious about and paying attention to. They talked about the process of becoming a saint and how saints are thought of in the Catholic religion. A question asked and discussed, "Will the sainthood of Italian teen, Carlo Acutis draw young Utah Catholics to the pew?" They even included links so their listeners could get more information. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving Mass for the canonization of Blessed Carlos Acutis (now a saint) at the Cathedral of the Madeleine on May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. How exciting!!

There is another young man who will be canonized this year, Pier Giorgio Frassati. For years, Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925) has been a significant global patron for **youth, young adults, athletes, and "ordinary people"** - and has a special place in the hearts of many young people across the United States and around the world. He opposed the Fascist regime in Italy, advocating for the poor and emphasizing the Church's teachings on dignity and justice. He died from poliomyelitis at the young age of 24, most likely contracted from the sick people he cared for. Thousands of people attended his funeral, consisting mostly of the poor whom Frassati had secretly helped throughout his life. He is to be canonized on **August 3, 2025**, in Rome.

Dear and gracious God, my life can be so hectic that I fail to listen to your life-giving words. By your grace open my ears, so that I may hear and pay heed to your call.

Submitted by Annette Pressley, President SLCDCCW