

DCCW First Vice-President/President-Elect Report, November 2025 ~ Susan Porter

Autumn has always been my favorite season; cooler weather, the aroma of cinnamon spice, college football, and the aspen trees ablaze on the mountain amongst the pines. This year it seems to be flying by, as it has been a busy couple of months since our last meeting in September. Many of you attended the Utah Catholic Conference and the Carmelite Fair, as well as the Give Me a Chance Garden Party. Hopefully, you all found a special way to recognize your parish Councils of Catholic Women during the month of October when we celebrate Council Sunday around the United States. As we have been told often by NCCW and our MDR teams, “don’t let your women’s groups be the best kept secret in the parish.”

DCCW President Annette Pressley, NCCW President Amy Kennedy, Jeanne Audiss, Gaylynn Huffman, and I met with Bishop Solis and Father Ariel in early October to share our goals and budget for the coming year. Our meeting immediately followed the fall clergy convocation that focused on fostering vocations to the priesthood, religious life, and sacramental marriage. In the October 17th Intermountain Catholic cover story, we learned that the Diocese of Salt Lake is facing over a 25% drop in priests active in parish ministry in the next 15 years if there are no new vocations. At the convocation, pastors were encouraged to invite parishioners to participate in the upcoming “Vocations Promoter Training” on November 15th at St. Ann’s in Salt Lake City. Bishop Solis and Father Ariel would also like to see the DCCW represented at this workshop, so that we, too, can make promoting vocations a priority in our organization and parish CCWs. We reached out to several members asking them to serve in this endeavor and are very pleased with the response. We have at least one representative from four of the five deaneries registered to attend on behalf of the DCCW. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. An on-line registration form is available at <https://www.dioslc.org/pray-promote-support>.

Since this is our last meeting of 2025 before our annual convention packets get distributed in January, I’d like to call your attention to three ways you can support the DCCW in fundraising. Ways and Means will be looking for “opportunity drawing” basket donations and Silent Auction donors for the convention. As your convention co-chair, I will provide a letter for soliciting advertisements for the convention program to help offset our printing costs. This information will be posted on our website: dccwutah.org. Also, there are three levels of Sponsorship (not to be confused with Scholarship) available: Diamond, Emerald, and Ruby. This can be provided by an individual or an organization. Last year, EWTN was an Emerald sponsor. There are some very generous donors out there. (If you attended the Carmelite Fair, you may have seen the two-page list of 175 supporters). Keep in mind, we do need to coordinate and not “double-ask” for donations.

As autumn days are nearing the end, we still have three weeks before the Advent season arrives. I’m reminded of my grandmother telling me in my youth not to wish the days to pass by too quickly. I wondered then how an older retired person could feel that way, but now I understand. Let us take some time in the coming weeks to reflect upon and give thanks for our many blessings. Happy Thanksgiving!

