

# 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*

2025 SPRING ISSUE

## DCCW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Annette Pressley — St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Heights**

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As I write this report there are so many things going on in my life and in the world. As you read this, I pray, that some of the issues and concerns have come to a happy resolution. We have all been praying for Pope Francis as he battles his illness. I hope that the many prayers, rosaries, and masses offered up for him have kept him here with us. If not, I know he is watching over us and praying for us all as he looks down from heaven. My hope is that we will all continue our quest to be "Pilgrims of Hope" during this Jubilee Year, to embark on pilgrimages both physical and spiritual, to repent our sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew our spiritual lives.

As I write this, I am anticipating Lent as a "new" beginning. A time to change things in my life that I can change and to open my heart to the call of Jesus to accept his will. As you read this, Lent and Easter will have come and gone. I pray that you are still feeling the many blessing of Lent and Easter. He is always with us.

In April 2024, I was installed as First Vice-President/President Elect of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women at the end of the Convention, which was filled with wonderful speakers, prayers, songs, laughter, tears, and a beautiful Mass. I was "dreading" but looking forward to this challenge. Then it all changed. Our dear Carol Harley, who had been installed as president, had to resign due to personal issues. In November, after 6 brief months, I was installed as DCCW President. Maybe that was when my year really began. It has been a blur and a huge learning curve. During all of this, we lost our dear Becky Hicks, co-director of meetings and an icon in our DCCW. Her passing left a big hole in many hearts. I was blessed to have Susan Porter take on the job of First Vice-President/President Elect in January. She is a Godsend.

I have grappled with all the moving parts of putting together the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual DCCW Convention, "Called to an Encounter with Jesus", April 26-27<sup>th</sup>. Reading this, you may or may not be with us as we celebrate this gathering of Catholic women from across the state. If you are not physically with us, know that we feel you with us in spirit.

I am already looking ahead to the NCCW Convention, August 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> in Orlando, Florida. Our own Amy Kennedy, from the Salt Lake Deanery, Cathedral of the Madeleine, will be installed as President of the NCCW. This is such an honor for Amy and for the Catholic women of Utah. This will be the second time in recent years that Utah has boasted a President. The last one being Pat Voorhes, who will be stepping down as Immediate Past President. We hope to have a large contingent of supporters for Amy's Installation.

As we look ahead to the rest of the year, let us always remember to give thanks for the blessings we have been given and to share those blessing with those less fortunate.

Submitted by Annette Pressley,  
President SLCDCCW



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

### **THE AWARE NEWSLETTER**

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**DCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR**  
**Father Ariel Durian- St. Peter, American Fork**  
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**BREATHE IN, BREATH OUT...**

As the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women of Utah gathers for this year's convention, we are invited to reflect on the theme: "Spiritual Renewal and Encounter." This theme calls us to refresh our faith and open our hearts to a deeper, more personal experience with God.

Life often pulls us in many directions — balancing family, work, and service to our communities. In the midst of it all, it's easy to feel spiritually depleted. But just as Jesus invited His disciples to rest and renew their strength, He invites us to do the same. Renewal is not about starting over; it's about allowing God to breathe new life into our souls, restoring the joy and peace that only He can give.

True renewal begins with an encounter — a meeting with Christ that transforms us from the inside out. Like Mary Magdalene at the empty tomb or the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we, too, are called to recognize His presence in our lives. These encounters remind us that God is not distant; He walks with us, even when we don't realize it.

This convention is more than a gathering — it's an opportunity to reignite our faith, reconnect with one another, and rediscover the beauty of encountering God in our daily lives. Let us open our hearts to His presence, trusting that He will renew our spirits and guide us forward in love and service.

"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8)



**DCCW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/  
PRESIDENT-ELECT**  
**Susan Porter — St. John the Baptist, Draper**  
**portersm57@gmail.com**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

The theme of this year's DCCW Convention, "Called to an Encounter with Jesus," brings to mind two of my *favorite* gospel readings: one that recounts an event before Christ's Crucifixion and one that occurs shortly after His Resurrection: The Samaritan Woman at the Well and The Road to Emmaus. Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well begins awkwardly. She is there at a time hoping to see no one. It ends with her leaving her water jug behind (her temporal thirst for the well water and meaningless relationships) to run into her village proclaiming that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the World. The Road to Emmaus prefigures the Mass: as the two crestfallen disciples are traveling along the road, they meet a stranger who shares stories from the Torah and prophets foretelling the Messiah. It is not until he stays with them and breaks bread that they realize he is the risen Christ. Each time we encounter Jesus we too experience a life-changing transformation like these early disciples. Our catechism outlines five ways we encounter Christ as he is present to His Church:

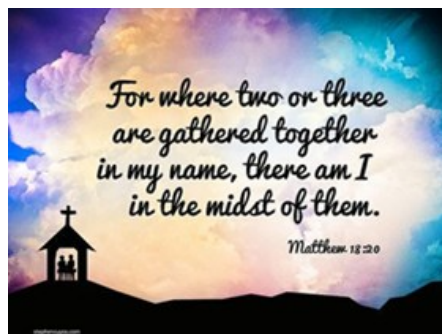
- ◆ In His Word: we come to know Jesus by studying and meditating on sacred Scripture
- ◆ In His Church's prayer (the Mass): we gather as a community of believers, accompanying other disciples along the way
- ◆ In our service to others: we see the face of Jesus in those we serve, particularly in the poor, the imprisoned, the sick and the dying
- ◆ In our priests and spiritual advisors who have also made a commitment to follow Christ and acknowledge their need for a savior
- ◆ In the Sacraments, especially in the summit of them all, the Eucharist, and in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is in this silence that God speaks the loudest.

For those of you attending this year's 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention, may the weekend offer many opportunities for a transformative encounter with Jesus, a spirit-filled renewal of old friendships, and the making of new ones. If you are reading this AWARE newsletter at the convention, I invite you to look at the many advertisements in the back of the program booklet. Please support the businesses and organizations who support the DCCW and be sure to offer your congratulations to the Women of the Year who contribute so much to their parish communities.

*"Those who drink the water that I give them will never thirst..."  
"Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road..."*

Pope Francis made the following statement regarding this year's Jubilee:

*"For everyone, may the jubilee be a moment of genuine personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' of our salvation whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere, and to all as our hope."*



## **DCCW IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**Barb Kerouac**  
**St. Martin de Porres, Taylorsville**  
barb0235@msn.com

Welcome to the 2025 DCCW Convention, “Called to an encounter with Jesus”. We hope you thoroughly enjoy your convention experience. Those of you who can’t join us, we miss you. We pray for all of you to have a blessed year and can join us next year.

During this convention the current DCCW officers and Deanery Presidents will make their recommitment to serve again this upcoming year. Take the time to thank the women who have served in the leadership roles of today and in the past. They have put their hearts and souls into leading our affiliates and members with support, education, and empowerment to serve, lead, and provide spiritual gifts. I am so grateful for the opportunities the CCW has provided. The DCCW Nominating Committee will be activated and looking for ladies to fill the Executive board in 2026. Please come forward to serve when asked, it is a rewarding experience to serve the Catholic women of our Diocese. You are our future, and remember if not you, who?

If you are not a member of the NCCW please join in this wonderful organization and sisterhood of Catholic women across the globe. You can join, at our convention or go to [nccw.org](http://nccw.org) to join. Contact your Parish Affiliate, or if there isn’t one, start one. We have all kinds of resources to get started. Start your own sisterhood of Catholic women of Faith. Or better yet plan to attend the NCCW convention in August to get the full experience. Our own Amy Kennedy will be installed as NCCW President this year in Orlando FL August 19-24, 2025.

I would also like to remind you all to be “Pilgrims of Hope” this Jubilee year of 2025 as declared by Pope Francis. We as Catholic Women are pilgrims of hope every day by the way we serve and interact with all we encounter. The Diocesan website has great info on making a pilgrimage to receive a plenary indulgence during this Jubilee year. What an opportunity to encounter Jesus in our lives.

Enjoy this beautiful time of year of renewal. May God bless you, your families, our nation, and world with peace and acceptance of each other’s differences. See you at Convention!!





## DCCW PARLIAMENTARIAN

**Jeannie Audiss — Saint Joseph the Worker, West Jordan**  
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### FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PARLIAMENTARIAN

#### Why Use Parliamentary Procedure?

**Order and Efficiency:** It helps to ensure that meetings are conducted in an orderly and efficient manner.

**Fairness and Inclusion:** It promotes fairness and inclusion by ensuring that all members have an opportunity to participate.

**Effective Decision-Making:** It facilitates effective decision-making by providing a structured process for deliberation and voting.

**Respect for the Minority:** It protects the rights of the minority, even if they disagree with the majority.

#### Key Principles:

**One issue at a time:** Only one matter should be under discussion at any given moment.

**Equal rights:** All members have the right to speak, be heard, and vote.

**Majority rule:** Decisions are typically made by a majority vote.

**Protection of minority rights:** The rights of the minority must be respected, even if they disagree with the majority.

**Orderly debate:** A structured process for discussion and debate is essential.

**Impartial Chair:** The chair or moderator should remain impartial and ensure fair proceedings.

**Motions:** Decisions are made through formal proposals, or motions, which are then debated and voted upon.

**Seconding:** A motion often requires a second from another member before it can be debated.

**Voting:** Various methods of voting can be used, including voice votes, roll calls, and general consent.

**Points of Order:** A member can raise a point of order to draw attention to a procedural error or lack of decorum.

#### Common Elements:

**Agendas:** Meetings typically follow a structured agenda, outlining the topics to be discussed.

**Motions:** Members propose actions or ideas through motions.

**Debate:** Members discuss and debate the merits of motions.

**Voting:** The assembly votes on motions, with the majority usually deciding the outcome.

**Minutes:** A record of the meeting's proceedings, including motions, discussions, and votes, is often kept.

#### What is parliamentary procedure?

Parliamentary procedure is a systematic way of organizing meetings.

Parliamentary procedure is governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (NCCW)

**Amy Kennedy — President-Elect**  
**Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City**  
amy.kennedy@comcast.net

## The Inside Scoop from your National Council of Catholic Women

My primary task as NCCW President-Elect is to chair our National Convention, and I have been busy organizing tours, our fundraiser, and working with our hotel on the logistics for the 2025 NCCW Convention in Orlando. We have a great event planned for you this year, and you can learn all about it on the NCCW website's Convention page ([www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)). Convention registration opened on April 1, 2025, and I hope many of you will have already registered by the time you read this article. If you are on the fence about attending, here's an inside scoop about some special features of our 2025 Convention to entice you.

Discounted Convention Package. Who doesn't love a deal, right? That is why we are excited to offer a discounted registration package that includes your general Convention registration and three of our most popular add-on events: the Awards Luncheon, Province Dinner, and Banquet. This package, which would cost \$670 if purchased individually, is available for just \$600, saving you more than 10%!

One-Day Registration Options. We are pleased to continue offering a one-day registration option, allowing those unable to attend the entire event to experience all that the NCCW Convention has to offer. Visit the NCCW website for more information.

Retreat at the Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine. As part of your general Convention registration (or one-day Thursday registration), you will be able to attend a full-day retreat at this beautiful basilica. You can read about our presenters on the NCCW website.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that I will be installed as NCCW President at the end of this Convention. I hope as many of you as possible will be able to join me in Orlando to celebrate and so I can thank you in person for all you have done to support me in this journey.

### **NCCW Convention At-A-Glance**

Dates: August 19 to 23, 2025

Location: Hilton Orlando (Florida) Lake Buena Vista

Keynote Speaker: Marie Miller

Registration Deadline: June 13, 2025

Hotel Registration Deadline: July 28, 2025

More Information: Visit [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org) and click on the Convention tab for information on registration and hotel reservations, along with the latest schedule and Convention news.

## **SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ...**

To unite Catholic women's organizations and individual Catholic women in the state of Utah, Diocese of Salt Lake City, in purpose, through **support, empowerment, and education** in the areas of **spirituality, leadership, and service** and respond with Christian values to current issues in the church and society.

## **DCCW SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Jessica Jurkowski, Co-Chair**  
jazzfan63@hotmail.com

**Cathie Finger, Co-Chair**  
clfinger@comcast.net

Thanks to some very generous donations, the committee was able to award eleven scholarships this year.

It has been a blessing to be able to serve on the scholarship committee. We are looking forward to the Convention this year, It is always such a beautiful and uplifting time to nourish and strengthen our faith and friendships.

Peace & Grace to all,  
Jessica and Cathie

### **DCCW CONVENTION WOMAN OF THE YEAR PROGRAM**

Jennifer Streker  
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Margaret Sanchez  
Saint Mary, West Haven  
Megsancho0358@gmail.com

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Greetings from your DCCW Woman of the Year Program Chairs!

We are pleased to announce that twenty-seven remarkable women will be honored at our Convention Banquet. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for all the affiliates who submitted their Woman of the Year Bio and in a timely manner.

Looking forward to honoring these women who are dedicated in serving God and church.

It has been our privilege to serve!



## **DCCW DIRECTORS OF MEETINGS**

**Marcie Downs, Co-Chair**  
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**Jamie Beert, Co-Chair**  
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Well according to the calendar, Spring is here and we are seeing glimmers of spring weather, hearing the birds chirping, tree buds starting to form and flowers creeping out of the ground.

**We are excited for you all to attend our April 2025 Convention.**

We want to thank all the DCCW women who have helped with, providing information, patience, and support in planning this event without our beloved Becky. We also want to thank Megan Buttars and Jonathan Bakker with Little America for all their patience, assistance and support.

For those of you attending, enjoy the convention, speakers and time to bond with your Catholic sisters. Please remember to fill out your comment forms so we can continue to make our convention even better! God

Bless you all.

Jamie and Marcie



***Come Join Us April 26 - 27, 2025***

***96th Annual DCCW Convention***

*Little America Hotel, 500 Main Street, Salt Lake City*

*A Weekend of Spiritual Renewal and Encounter*

## DCCW MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE TEAM

**Michael O'Shea, Co-Chair**  
**St. Anthony of Padua, Helper**  
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**Bonnie Siegrist, Co-Chair**  
**Blessed Sacrament, Sandy**  
utahbonnie@comcast.net

**ARE YOU A MENTOR?** In past AWARE articles and board meeting reports, the MDR team has encouraged Councils to make it a goal to focus on the future of our women's groups and ways to get new members with new ideas and thus new leaders to take us into the future. Recruiting new members and especially developing leaders is a process.

We all get excited when someone new comes to a meeting. (Ah, maybe I won't have to be president for the umpteenth time, or I can finally not chair the bake sale!...) Oh the possibilities for our new Council sister! However, we really shouldn't expect these new members to just jump right into leadership or chair roles cold turkey. Maybe it works out, but more likely it could very well be a recipe for disaster, and we lose them. Instead, what we can do, and should do, to help women be successful and enjoy Council, is support, empower and educate by "mentoring".

According to Google's AI, *the purpose of mentoring is to facilitate growth, provide guidance, and empower individuals to achieve their goals.* (Sounds like the qualities of a good leader, right?)

**So, who is a mentor? The fact is, we ALL can be a mentor to each other.**

### WHO IS A MENTOR?

- A mentor listens not just to our words but to our heart *(They pay attention to body language, tone of voice, circumstances)*
- They are unselfish *(They mentor even when it does not involve getting someone's vote or talking them into taking a position)*
- They have a desire to help someone feel better about themselves *(They understand that people achieve more when they believe in themselves)*
- They see beyond the obvious and then take action *(They stand up at the end of a meeting and publicly thank the President, officers, commission chairs, etc.) (They send a handwritten or email note telling the chair that their report was very good...and why.)*
- They offer help...without strings attached *(Not to be in charge or to take over but to see the other person succeed)*
- They appreciate our efforts and either minimize or redirect our mistakes *(They think before they criticize, they never embarrass the person in front of others)*
- They make little accomplishments of ours seem as though they are the golden stepping-stones to greater things in our lives *(They know the value of growing in the scope of our accomplishments...they understand that if you feel confident in the little successes that one day you will be willing to take on the big ones.)*
- They challenge us to grow and mature in our lives and faith *(They encourage us to step out of our comfort zone...but give us all of the information...not hiding some until after we have already committed)*
- They leave their 'comfort zone' to make room for the 'new kid on the block.' *(They don't keep the same position for years...sure they are good at it but how will anyone else ever succeed...sometimes the same old same old approach may keep a body filling a position but the only one really interested is the person holding that position...the others are ready for something new...have you ever heard the saying, "Someone will have to die before that position opens up?" That is not mentoring. Teaching someone else the ropes and easing them into the position is real leadership and mentoring.)*
- They know our goals, sometimes even before we do, and they help us reach them *(They care enough to watch your growth and can sense your abilities easier than you can, yourself...they are the cheerleader to move you forward...they usually pray for your future.)*



### **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

**Marilyn Granato , Co-Chair**  
**St. Marguerite, Tooele**  
marilyngranato@gmail.com



We are called to live a Spirit-filled life through the power of the Resurrection. But, what happens after the day after the celebration of Easter – what's left? Does everything go back to normal? Do we go back to living our regular everyday lives?

The temptation is real. We could go back to our safe everyday routines and just look at Easter as a spiritual highlight of the year. Think for a moment about Jesus' disciples and the hundreds of people who saw Him after He rose from the dead. What if they went back to their normal lives after they knew He was alive? But, they didn't and neither should we.

Are you ready? Will this be your time to let Easter transform your life? Today's the perfect day to think about what needs to be done – and the perfect day to start making those changes. Figure out what's holding you back and release it to the Lord. Ask for His help in changing your life. Please, don't wait for another time. Start today, while the miracle and gift of Christ's death and resurrection is still fresh in your mind. "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." —Martin Luther King Jr.

To make the most of life after Easter, below are some basic spiritual disciplines:

Reserve 5 minutes each day to spend in prayer. — Relationship involves spending time with the other.

As we pray, we will be cultivating a closer relationship with the Lord.

Read the Gospel each day. — The only way to know God's way is to place ourselves in the world of the Scripture and most especially, to walk with Christ, so as to see as He sees.

Go to Confession once a month. — If you want your faith to grow, you need to confess your sins regularly. The darkness of sin is dispelled and our relationship to God restored.

Find a way to volunteer to help others — There are many benefits, including improved physical and mental health, a sense of purpose, and new friendships.

Cultivate thankfulness — Thank the Lord for three things each day. A spirit of thankfulness kills a bitter heart and helps us to see that truly everything is a gift from the Lord.

**Prayer for Transformation** — By: DivineDisclosures.com

Almighty God, My heart burns with the desire for transformation. I stand before you. Humbled and open, acknowledging the areas of my life that need your refining fire. Holy Spirit, descend upon me with your cleansing power. Wash away any negativity, pride or self-doubt that hinders my growth. Reveal the corners of my heart that need your light.

Convict me, Lord, of any sin that separates me from Your perfect will. Grant me the courage to confess and release these burdens, seeking Your forgiveness and grace. Mold me into the person you created me to be. Fill me with the fruits of Your spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodwill, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Grant me the wisdom to discern your voice above the noise of the world. Opened my heart to your teachings in both the scriptures and through the experiences you placed before me.

Empower me to overcome the temptations that hold me back. Give me the strength to choose your path even when it feels difficult. Let your transformation flow not just within me, but through me. Help me to be a beacon of your love in the world, reflecting your kindness and compassion and all that I do. May my transformation life be a testament to your mighty work, a constant reminder of your unwavering love and grace. In the powerful name of Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen.

—May this Easter Season continue to transform you.—

## LEADERSHIP COMMISSION

Maria Devereux, Chair  
St. James the Just, Ogden  
mariadevereux1@gmail.com

As Leadership Chair, I am reminded of the profound leadership each of us holds, in both our past actions and in how we continue to serve today and into the future. We are all part of the larger mission—CCW, DCCW, and NCCW. The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) reminds us just how we impacted the world, responding with gospel values in the past.

### Past Impact:

**Social Services:** In 1921, NCCW took on oversight of the National Catholic School of Social Services, keeping it alive through the Great Depression and WWII, merging it with Catholic University's School of Social Work in 1947. **War Refugees:** NCCW supported refugees from Germany, Korea, and Vietnam. In 1996, our partnership with Catholic Relief Services launched the Refugee Women Emergency Fund, offering safety and essentials to women and children in need worldwide. **Vatican II:** NCCW played a key role at the Second Vatican Council, with our President being the only American laywoman auditor. **Advocacy and Social Justice:** NCCW advocated for women's rights, civil rights, and healthcare, including osteoporosis and breast cancer screenings. We supported initiatives for poverty, women's health, and cultural hardships.

### Today's Strength and Mission:

**Social Services:** We continue to respond to social justice needs, working with local and international organizations to address poverty, education, and healthcare equality. **Advocacy:** We continue our advocacy for the dignity of human life, including the defense of the unborn and efforts to promote health, equality, and opportunity for all. Today, we focus on modern issues such as human trafficking, equal pay, and mental health awareness. **Education:** Through programs like Respite Care, Domestic Violence advocates, and Human Trafficking Awareness, the NCCW offers leadership development and educational resources. **International Outreach:** Continuing our long-standing partnership with Catholic Relief Services and Cross Catholic Outreach, we support initiatives like *Box of Joy*, benefiting children in developing nations.

We have always been women of faith, and today, we continue to lead with courage and compassion. Our work, our focus, and caring, reflects our dedication to building a better world for the Church and society. I am proud of our affiliates and the light of Christ they share with so many. Let us continue to lead, inspire, and support one another, knowing that as leaders, we rise by lifting others.

Looking forward to seeing ALL of you – strong and wonderful women at the convention!

Maria Devereux



## DCCW LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

**Donna Murphy, Chair**  
St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Hts.

**Brandy Farmer, Co-Chair**  
St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Hts.

The Utah Legislative Session started on Jan.21,2025 and ended on Friday March 7, 2025 after an annual 45 day session. There were several bills which passed affecting the Catholic community.

The Utah Fits all Scholarship House Bill (HB)455S2 by Representative Candace Pierucci and Senator Kirk Cullimore gave \$8,000.00 annually to various schools including 16 Utah Catholic schools which helps students with tuition.

As President of the Women's State Legislative Council of Utah, we listened to HB233S01 School Curriculum Amendments sponsored by Representative Nicholeen P. and Senate Sponsor, Scott D. Sandall which stopped the sex education in public schools which has traditionally been provided by Planned Parenthood health educators for five decades. A Salt Lake Tribune Article handout from Jan. 30, 2025, authored by Brittany Breneman, Education Director of Planned Parenthood was distributed to members in person on March 5th. Laurie Humbert, a high school teacher, spoke as an individual against this bill stating she is Catholic and Pro Life as well but advocated for this approved curriculum to stay in public education since Planned Parenthood follows the state guidelines. She reiterated from the article how the teaching materials are reviewed and approved by a committee of parents and teachers in each school district and available on each school district's website. In turn this makes it open and transparent for teachers, parents and lawmakers to review the information, the website [education@ppau.org](mailto:education@ppau.org) was provided in the SL Tribune article handout. The speaker in favor of this HB233S01 was Carlene Fullmer, President of the Respect Life Committee who had concerns about this education coming from Planned Parenthood. Governor Cox signed the bill on 3/26/25 and it will take effect on July 1,2025.

We also heard HB300S04 Amendments to Utah Election Law by Representative Jefferson Burton and Senator Michael McKell which makes voting by mail more difficult by requiring voters to turn in their ballots in person with the last 4 numbers of a Driver's License, Utah state ID card number or last 4 of Social Security Number. The opposing view of this bill speaker was Helen Moser, Director of Voter Services who discussed how there is not a significant amount of voter fraud in Utah. It included how this bill will disenfranchise rural Utahns, make it harder to vote and will create longer lines at polling locations. This bill was passed and signed by Governor Cox on 3/26/25 as well and will take effect on May 7,2025.

HB267 which bans public employees from collective bargaining was also heard in our Women's State Legislative Council and Brad Assay from American Federation of Teachers spoke against this bill. This bill list includes how essential workers like educators, firefighters, and police officers will no longer have the opportunity to bargain for fair pay, safer working conditions, and proper training. Rep. Jen Dailey-Provost is just one of many legislators who strongly opposed this bill and voted against it, because she believes their job as leaders is to **protect and support** the workers who keep our communities running, **not undermine them**. There is a coalition called **Protect Utah Workers** as an effort to put HB 267 on the ballot and let Utahns decide. They need to collect **200,000 signatures** by the middle of April.

In the Feb.28, 2025 Intermountain Catholic, News Brief, included how the U.S. Bishops are in conflict with President Donald Trump's administration and filed a lawsuit against the government on Feb.18, 2025 calling their actions unlawful and harmful. There was a CBS news article on 4/2/25 how Trump's crusade against four law firms sparks fears of long lasting damage in his effort to settle long-held scores with political opponents. This article included "the damage the punishments could do to the viability of the firms and, crucially, the threat they pose to the rule of law". There are three branches of government which act as a check and balance on one another as the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch as they are significant in our democracy.



## DCCW LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION—CONTINUED

**Donna Murphy, Chair**  
St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Hts.

**Brandy Farmer, Co-Chair**  
St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Hts.

Per Intermountain Catholic April 4, 2025 edition, 10 million Christians in U.S. at risk of mass deportation, says Catholic-Evangelical report. Catholic social teaching on immigration balances three interrelated principles – the right of persons to migrate in order to sustain their lives and those of their families, the right of a country to regulate its borders and control immigration, and a nation's duty to regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

As per Catholic recent news nationally from WASHINGTON, D.C., April 2, 2025 – Bill O'Keefe, Executive Vice President of [Catholic Relief Services](#) (CRS), along with other organizations, is urgently calling on Congress to protect and prioritize poverty-reducing international humanitarian and development assistance in FY26 Appropriations. O'Keefe shared the Catholic Church's vision for U.S. international humanitarian assistance at a pivotal time when the U.S. government is realigning its priorities. Celebrating the Jubilee year in 2025, the Church emphasizes global solidarity, aligning U.S. humanitarian efforts with values of human dignity, solidarity and the common good. O'Keefe stressed that these initiatives are not just charitable acts but strategic investments that protect human life, making the world safer, stronger and more prosperous. "The dignity of every human being is central to our mission, and U.S. international assistance must reflect that commitment," said O'Keefe. He added, "America can be the safest, strongest, most prosperous nation in the world. But if we achieve those goals, only to realize that our brothers and sisters are still barely surviving, we must ask ourselves: what does it mean to be the most powerful and wealthy nation in the world if we do not use our position to support the life and dignity of our neighbors?"

As per March 17, 2025 statements by Robyn Fieser with CRS, Pope Francis invites Catholics and all people to become artisans of hope by building communities rooted in solidarity. As Pope Paul VI said in his encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, "It is a very important duty of the advanced nations to help the developing nations". Per the statement, "By ending these life-saving programs, our government is not only neglecting our nation's responsibility, but also weakening the very foundations of peace, stability and prosperity."

May we continue to pray for our elected leaders to please do the most humane thing for all of us, especially to have mercy on the immigrants as they are not all illegal or committing crimes. Hopefully we can have conversations with others to maintain civil discourse when we may disagree with other viewpoints. For more information on local Utah legislative issues, please view the website [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov) and [www.dioslc.org](http://www.dioslc.org).

*Donna Rider Murphy RN MSN CPN*  
*President of Women's State Legislative Council of Utah*  
*"Caring to Make a Difference"*



**EASTERN DEANERY**  
**Becky Colombo, President**  
**St. Anthony of Padua, Helper**  
beckyc144@gmail.com

**New Advisor!** I will begin my report with an update on our spiritual advisor position. Father Joven Volpando has been appointed by Bishop Solis to be the spiritual advisor the Eastern Deanery Council of Catholic Women. We have been without an advisor since the passing of Father Albert Kileo in January of 2023. Father Joven is assigned to St. Helen's in Roosevelt and has been involved with the women's council there. Members of the CCW at St. Helens have paid for carpet cleaning, new household items, and donated many hours of "women power" to refresh and refurbish his home. The members of the CCW meet on the first Tuesday of the month to tie quilts for the sick in the parish, and Father Joven joined the ladies in this activity. A welcoming event for Father Joven was held in February and several groups spoke. Pam Martin-Cuch of St. Kateri Tekakwitha brought in a Red Spirit drum group, who performed an honor song and flag song. They raised the flag and rang the bell for the first time in an exceedingly long time.

**More on St. Helen's:** The CCW opened a religious store at St. Helen's and one member helps with a weekly raffle at the church to raise funds for a new church sign. The CCW gathered to fill salt containers to sell at the religious store which can then be blessed by the priest. A few CCW members accompanied the catechumens to the Cathedral for the Rites of Election recently. CCW women helped get the Facebook page up and running for St. Helen's. They will be electing new officers in May and appointing new commission chairs for their council. St. Helen's will host the next Deanery meeting in September when we begin our new council year.

**St. James the Greater:** St. James hosted the recent luncheon to honor our five Women of the Year from the Eastern Deanery. The luncheon was a success with many guests in attendance. The food was great, decorations were beautiful, and the women were perfect hosts! Father Edward Leondhas attended the luncheon and presented each Woman of the Year with a beautiful rosary that he had blessed.

The CCW women at St. James hosted a Lenten Retreat last Saturday in Vernal. They had originally had Susan Neilson on board to lead the retreat, but she was unable to do so after her recent health event. We are glad our dear Susan is okay and feeling better each day. The women of St. James CCW also have a religious good store which has been a success at the parish. They help the Knights of Columbus with Bingo every Friday. The women will be electing new officers in May this year for their CCW. St. James is planning to host the DCCW board meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup> at St. James, to represent the Eastern Deanery. We hope you will mark your calendars and try your best to attend!

**St. Anthony of Padua:** The women of St. Anthony's CCW will be hosting an Easter Bake Sale the weekend of Palm Sunday. This is an annual event that is anticipated by members of the parish and the community. The CCW is hosting a CPR class for parishioners in May. A blood drive is also being planned in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus. The CCW President has also been communicating with other religious leaders in the county to form a local Inter-faith Council. This is currently a work in progress. Members of the Greek Orthodox Church, St. Mathew Episcopal Church, St. Anthony, Mission San Rafael, and Good Shepherd in East Carbon have been involved in the planning. The E Vitus Clampus group recently presented a plaque to the women of St. Anthony's CCW in grateful appreciation for their donations to the Clalmpers' yard sale, which is held to provide Sub for Santa to children in the Price/Helper area. This is a beautiful plaque which has been included in the display case with our awards from DCCW over the years. This is an "off" year for elections in St. Anthony's CCW, since their officers serve for two-year terms. A closing banquet will be enjoyed at the Carbon Country Club in May to end the current council year. Meetings will begin again in September.



**Women of the Year from Eastern Deanery:**

*(Left to right)* **Jennifer Jenkins**, Holy Spirit Mission, Duchesne  
**Shirley Chapoose**, St. Helen's, Roosevelt  
**Lenore Munguia Ayon**, St. James the Greater, Vernal  
**Alayn Carillo**, Notre Dame de Lourdes, Price  
*(Not Pictured)* **Tammy Sherman**, St. Anthony of Padua, Helper

## **NORTHERN DEANERY**

**Cleo Mota , President**  
**St. Mary's, West Haven**  
cleofemota@yahoo.com

### **Saint Mary Parish West Haven**

### **Margaret Sanchez- CCW President**

January 2025: We held our annual Baby Jesus Shower on January 21<sup>st</sup>. All baby gifts were donated to CCS St. Martha Baby Project. We had around 25 ladies and Deacon Jack joined us. We began with a potluck dinner. After dinner, we sang "Happy Birthday" to Baby Jesus and enjoyed a slice of cake. We opened all the gifts by having each person coming up to the front and sharing what they had purchased. We donated over 100 homemade burp rags and quilts along with many outfits, diapers, wipes, blankets, socks, hats all for the layette sets. We all had a wonderful time. Adoration was held on January 28th. We started at 6:00 pm with the Rosary followed by Adoration.

February 2025: CCW assisted with Bingo Night on February 8th. This was a fundraiser for the church. The ladies set up, worked at the food station, and sold tickets for the Bingo games and raffles. It was a tremendous success supported by the parishioners. We held nominations for the Woman of the Year and the Golden Rose Award and completed registrations for the DCCW Conference held April 26th & 27th. Our CCW participated in the Lenten Retreat that was held on February 24th -27th. The theme was Pilgrims of Hope: Incarnational Theology. It was presented by Father Czeck. We had a good turnout.

### **St Rose of Lima**

### **Monica Rich-CCW President**

Happy New Year! We at St Rose started our year with the collection of baby items for the Journey Clinic and hygiene supplies for the Center of Hope food pantry. St Rose was very generous with the donations. This year CCW is working to connect people with the Davis County Health Department. We had our first presentation about pregnant women, postpartum services and family health service and resources regardless of if they don't have insurance or legal status. In February we selected Our Parish Woman of the year. We are going to honor Renee at the DCCW convention for her service to our parish. This month we are having a presentation from Davis behavioral services. They are going to talk about Opening pathways to a healthy, meaningful & balanced life. We can wait to see you all at the convention.

### **Holy Family**

### **Judy Hoskins-CCW President**

At our January meeting we had a guest speaker, Sherri Hansen, who spoke on her experience at the Eucharistic Congress that she had attended this past Summer. She shared with us a few of the speakers and gave us links to get more information. We hosted the Northern Deanery meeting. We accepted three (3) nominations for Woman of the Year (WOY). The women of the parish voted on our nominations. We surprised our WOY at morning mass with a bouquet of roses and a card. We accepted nominations for our Golden Rose Award. One young lady was chosen to represent our parish. We are planning to honor her this month, February.

**SALT LAKE DEANERY**  
**Susan Vaughn, President**  
**St. Vincent de Paul, Holladay**  
susanevaughn@comcast.net

The Salt Lake Deanery continues to stay busy. For my end of year report I will highlight the activities these wonderful women have been doing. The National Council has stated their mission is **they act through their members to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership, and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.**

The affiliates **collaborated** with the Knights of Columbus for many activities. To name a few: Coffee and Donuts after mass, Spaghetti dinners, Food drives and Festivals, Golf tournaments, and Car Shows.

**Services** provided to the parishes were demonstrated by serving as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, LEMs serving in leadership roles in CCW and the parish. Leading the daily rosary with members of the parish. Members actively participated in the Diocesan Eucharistic Rally, attending the Eucharistic Congress, and attending the DCCW and NCCW conventions. Members served in leadership roles in the Deanery and DCCW.

**Education** is important and this is demonstrated in the affiliates. The Leadership Development Conference provided by the LTD team from NCCW was fabulous opportunity to help all the officers to enter their roles. The study of Pope Francis encyclicals Fratelli Tutti and The Eucharist in its Relationship to the Church are just two of the group studies. Book club discussion is another example of the learning opportunities. Guest speakers are brought in to share information with members. Different affiliates held Retreats for the parishes, for both the women and the youth. All were attended very well, drawing participants from across the Diocese. Passover meals and Living Stations of the Cross brought deep understanding. Assisting in the Carlos Acutis Eucharistic Miracles presentation for the parish and Judge Memorial Catholic High School brought a better understanding of the soon to be newest saint canonized by the church.

**Charitable** projects conducted by the affiliates are numerous. Examples include St. Martha's Baby project, The Inn Between, Kearns St. Anns School, Semi Day Care Center, Homeless Shelters, the Fisher House, multiple food pantries and last but not least members of their own parish. Affiliates have given their parishes thousands of dollars for parish needs, from recovering from earth quakes to rain and just wear and tear. Many dollars have been spent to keep our parish facilities open and in good working order. This is something we are all proud of.

**Fund Raisers** one may ask how all of this can be done. The busy ladies in The Salt Lake Deanery are very resourceful. Bake sales are still utilized. Buncos, bingos and bus trips to Wendover are great profit generators. Fall festivals are supported by parishioners. Parish teas are enjoyed by all. Donations are always appreciated.

It is impossible to list everything completed by these wonderful women during the past year. They are dedicated to the church, their parish and their faith. Never underestimate what these women can do. They are leaders, teachers and neighbors. They are our sisters.



**WASATCH DEANERY**  
**Gabby Gauchay , President**  
**St. Francis of Assisi, Orem**  
saintlydoodles@gmail.com

What a delight it has been to serve as the Wasatch Deanery president for almost a year now! An opportunity I never saw myself having or pursuing. The places God will take you, if you are willing to answer His call. I am continually amazed and honored by the support, guidance and inspiration I have received from every member! There is so much to learn and so many friendships I have formed from this organization that are truly invaluable to me and have shaped who I am.

Our affiliates all have been busy as ever with many activities, events, prayer services and more. The Wasatch Deanery truly is a great place to be!

In the fall, we had the opportunity to meet a few women from St. Andrew's parish in Riverton, at the Utah Catholic Conference. It was such a "God wink" to run into them, as they were interested in the possibility of affiliating. I was honored to go, alongside Barb Kerouac and Annette Pressley to present to their women's group on our organization and the benefits that come with being an affiliated member. Since then, we have supported their group by promoting various events that they have held. We hope to see them join the Wasatch Deanery in the near future!

The end of 2024 was busy for many of our affiliates as they prepared and executed some very successful events. **Blessed Sacrament, St. Francis of Assisi** and **St. Martin de Porres** held their annual boutiques to spread crafts and holiday cheer around their parishes!

**St. Thomas More** also hosted their holiday boutique which is always accompanied by their annual Christmas Luncheon. This year they welcomed and hosted 300 guests to their event!

Throughout our Deanery, prayer is the glue that keeps our groups together. **Sts. Peter & Paul** as well as **St. Peter's** in American Fork both lifted their communities up in prayer as a group. Sts. Peter & Paul start their monthly meetings by saying a Rosary together. St. Peter held a prayer service for the departed souls in their parish during the month of November. And the gals at **Blessed Sacrament** were able to distribute prayer shawls to those of the parish that needed comfort. A good reminder that "faith without prayer is a hobby." May all of our groups unite in prayer first and foremost.

**St. Martin de Porres & Sts. Peter and Paul** both continue to do an amazing job at bringing together the different cultures of their parish. St. Martin de Porres invited members of the Hispanic community to come and teach to teach and inspire their group on the novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Posadas. Sts. Peter and Paul sponsored a parish wide Catholic Community Services donation drive for the Refugee Center.

The beginning of 2025 has started strong for our councils. **St. Martin de Porres** did a great job teaming up with their Respect Life group, by hosting a donation drive to collect and make layettes that were donated to Respect Life and the PRC. The ladies at **Blessed Sacrament** started the year off with a service project - they were able to gather to prepare a wonderful meal of soup and sweet breads to donate to the Inn Between in Salt Lake for their Sunday evening meal.



## **WASATCH DEANERY**

### **Gabby Gauchay , President**

#### **Continued:**

Our groups experienced a full and fruitful Lenten season, as they gathered in prayer groups and book clubs to journey through the season together. **St. Francis of Assis** formed a Lenten Tea group - all sharing the same guided daily devotional, gathering once a week for discussion and social hour. **St. John the Baptist** led a group through Walking the Stations of the Cross. All of our affiliates also participated in serving their parish communities during lent, with Stations of the Cross and Friday soups and fish frys.

To sum it up, as women we have a unique call to serve in the ways in which God has equipped us. We specialize in spiritual and hospitality service. The women of the Wasatch Deanery do a phenomenal job at answering those calls and keeping busy serving God's people.

Another important facet of our ministry is relational. We were made to be in communion with each other. The relationships that are formed throughout this organization, and especially, blossom here at convention are some of the strongest I have witnessed. And the bond that we all share as Catholic Women truly is a special one. We are there for each other through all stages and seasons of life. Some of those seasons, being the hardest.

Our deanery is still in the hard season of mourning. During December of 2024 we laid to rest and honored the lives of two of our beloved members, this last winter. Erin Stephens from St. Francis of Xavier passed away on December 2nd of 2024. And of course, our sweet Becky Hicks from Blessed Sacrament, who was a treasure and giant throughout DCCW as a whole, passed away on December 10th, 2024. These two women have touched not only my life but their outreach expanded far beyond the Wasatch Deanery. Our organization will not be the same without these two amazing women. The example and legacy left by each in their communities will last a lifetime. May we keep them and both of their families in our hearts and prayers.

Our Deanery looks forward to seeing how Jesus will call us to encounter Him and are excited to see where He leads us in our ministry this coming year! We hope to create memorable opportunities to gather and cultivate women on mission!



## A FOND FAREWELL

The woman of Saint Martin de Porres CCW would like to thank Father Dominic for all his love and support though out his 5 years as our Pastor.

Father Dominic has been chosen by his Dominican Brothers to be their Prior in the Seattle Area.

What a beautiful honor! Father Dominic has been a beacon of light for everyone he meets.

We are blessed to be able to have witnessed and experienced his love, compassion and friendship. We will miss you Father Dominic and all you have done for us. You gave us all you had and now you are being called to bless others with your gift. We know it will not be “goodbye”, but a “see you soon”.

This poem says it best.

### *A Teacher's Light*

*A beacon bright, a guiding hand,  
You lead us to the promised land,  
With words of wisdom, soft and true,  
You shape our hearts, and see us through.  
The path of Christ, you make it clear,  
Dispelling doubt, and calming fear,  
With patient grace, you gently mend,  
A faithful friend, until the end.  
Your love, a flame that brightly burns,  
Inspiring hearts, where faith returns,  
A teacher's heart, a soul so kind,  
A treasure found, for all mankind.  
May God bless you, in all you do,  
Your teaching's light, shines ever true.  
A teacher of Christ, a gift so rare,  
We thank you, for your loving care*

Thank you again Father Dominic, May God Bless Your Journey!  
St. Martin de Porres CCW Ladies.