

SALT LAKE DEANERY

Council of Catholic Women

President's Report

October – November 2026

President's Message

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to share this report on the wonderful activities of our Salt Lake Deanery and its affiliates during this past quarter. Our councils continue to shine as beautiful examples of faith, prayer, and service in their parishes and communities.

Looking for Everyday Miracles

I want to encourage all of us to start looking for everyday miracles. They are everywhere; we just need to see them.

I recently read a story and saw a picture from an ordinary infant's baptism, the kind all of us have done. We get the outfits, the food, plan a party, and some of us hire a photographer. This family did all of this. A few days afterward, as the photographer was developing the pictures, he noticed something in one of them that nobody had seen at the time of the baptism. He had taken a picture of the priest pouring holy water over the infant's head, and the picture showed that the water had formed the shape of a rosary, crucifix and all. The family was notified right away.

Is this a miracle? I think so. Maybe if Rome investigates it, we will find out.

This story told me that baptism is more than just an automatic thing we do with our children. So often we go through the motions: we get it done, have the party, and move on. But this shows us it is so much more than going through the motions. God is there with us, and so is Mary. To me, this is a miracle.

A Powerful Witness of Prayer – The Balloon Rosary

I personally joined Gracemarie and the women of Saint Marguerite Parish when they prayed the rosary with the balloons on Council Sunday. I videoed it and shared it on social media, and on Instagram alone it has received over 17,567 views! People commented on how beautiful it was, and one lady back East shared that every time she watches the video, it makes her cry.

It was a very powerful activity and a wonderful reminder of how far our simple acts of prayer and devotion can reach. Something that began in a parish parking lot in Utah has touched hearts all across the country.

Affiliate Council Reports

The following reports reflect the vibrant activities and accomplishments of our affiliated councils during this reporting period:

Saint Marguerite Council

Report for October – November 2026

Submitted by: Gracemarie Belvedere, President

October

October opened with our monthly newsletter and a successful CCW Breakfast Fundraiser after all Masses on the 11th. We also honored our deacons and their wives on Deacon Sunday with a complimentary breakfast and a gift of appreciation.

Council Sunday – Balloon Rosary

On Sunday, October 18th, in honor of Council Sunday, we created a beautiful 35-foot Balloon Rosary in the parking lot between the first and second Masses, drawing a large crowd. Made with helium-filled balloons, it featured navy blue "Our Father" beads, pearl white "Hail Mary" beads, and smaller white balloons for the cross. Together, we prayed the Joyful Mysteries with Our Lady, using "Pray the Rosary with the NCCW" as our guide.

After a special prayer by Fr. Ken, we released the rosary toward the heavens. It was a moving expression of prayer and devotion, and the event was covered by local media and our Intermountain Catholic.

November

At our CCW meeting, we selected several organizations to support through service and donations. We also introduced a new creative CCW group that will make crafts for shut-ins, those recovering from illness, and others in need of encouragement.

We also hosted another successful CCW Breakfast Fundraiser on the 8th and completed 30 Boxes of Joy.

St. Patrick's Council of Catholic Women

Report for October – November 2026

Submitted by: Cynthia Acosta

St. Patrick's CCW continues to host our monthly parish games (bingo) on the first Saturday of the month.

We held our annual Boutique along with a 50/50 fundraiser, and served food we made. Together, these efforts raised approximately $2,000.00 for our parish.

Some of our ladies continue to help with Funeral Luncheons, offering comfort and hospitality to grieving families.

We purchased new blinds for our social hall. Janell and her family did all the work to install them, along with some repairs and a fresh coat of new paint.

Annual Opportunity Drawing

We are assisting with our annual Opportunity Drawing fundraiser by selling tickets. Prizes include:

Grand Prize: $5,000.00

1st Prize: iPhone 18

2nd Prize: $1,000.00

3rd Prize: $1,000.00 in Tires (J&M Tires)

4th Prize: Blackstone 4 Burner Grill

The drawing will be held November 20th. See anyone from St. Patrick's to buy a ticket!

Our Lady of Lourdes Council, Magna

Report for September – October 2026

Submitted by: Bernadette Moore

During September and October, our CCW ladies continued serving our parish through fundraising, fellowship, and community activities.

September

Pizzelle Making: Our ladies gathered to make pizzelles for our annual Spaghetti Dinner while enjoying fellowship and dinner together.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner & Basket Raffle – September 27: Our biggest fundraiser was a wonderful success thanks to the dedication of our CCW members and parish volunteers. The ladies helped with food preparation, raffle baskets, ticket sales, serving, and cleanup.

October

Monthly CCW Meeting: We gathered to discuss upcoming events, membership, and future activities while enjoying dinner and fellowship. We continued encouraging women ages 18 and older to join our council.

Trunk or Treat – October 31: The CCW organized a fun afternoon for our parish families and community to celebrate Halloween together.

Community Outreach & Planning: We began preparations for our November cereal drive benefiting the Cyprus High School Pantry and continued planning upcoming parish activities.

These past two months have been busy and rewarding.

Utah Food Bank: The Utah Food Bank is now coming to our parish parking lot three days a month. The need is great, and they are bringing clothing and toiletries as well as food.

Cathedral Women's Society

Report for September – October 2026

Submitted by: Delia Bayna, President, Cathedral of the Madeleine

Since our last report, the Cathedral Women's Society has been focusing on service, prayer, fellowship, and strengthening our connections within the parish.

September and October

Our September gathering included a business meeting, rosary, and potluck fellowship. We welcomed new attendees and worked together on our calendar of service projects and activities for the coming year.

We arranged an October 10 sandwich-making service project at Good Samaritan in place of our regular monthly meeting. We also promoted the Catholic Women's League October 24 benefit luncheon and fashion show, and ordered 10 Boxes of Joy for our Society's participation.

Delia has been assisting the NCCW Education Committee with revisions to the Water for Life and Madonna Plan educational flyers, and sent updated versions to Carol Brennan on November 3.

We have continued communicating with members through Flocknote emails and texts, Facebook, and parish bulletin announcements to encourage participation and welcome more women.

Upcoming Projects

Our November 14 meeting at 11 AM in Scanlan Hall will include writing encouragement cards for catechumens preparing to enter the Church at Easter. We are also organizing a care basket for a seminarian, with a Flocknote signup for contributions.

We are planning our December Christmas potluck and white elephant gift exchange. We have also contacted Café Zupas about a possible fundraiser in January or February 2027; a date has not yet been confirmed.

Our focus remains on creating opportunities for women to build friendships, grow in faith, and serve our parish and wider community.

St. Ann Ladies Guild

Report for August – November 2026

Submitted by: Natasha Mae Gallegos

August: Holiday Decor Sale, held August 29th and 30th.

September: Our first meeting in September was our Annual Baby Shower for St. Martha's Baby Project. We also began our Winter Clothing Drive.

October: Fall Bake Sale, held October 10–11.

November: At our next meeting on November 5th, we are putting up The Giving Tree to collect gift cards for needy families within the parish as well as Kearns-St. Ann School.

Saint Olaf Council of Catholic Women

November Report

Submitted by: Emily Craven, President

Interfaith Community Dinner: Held Wednesday, October 21st, hosted by Saint Olaf and headed by the CCW.

Council Sunday and Fall Retreat: Celebrated by the council this fall.

DCCW Convention Scholarship Program: Planned and will begin in November.

New BUNCO Chair: Dawn Flynn.

Ongoing Ministries: Coffee and donuts for Sunday Masses, and our Funeral Committee served two funeral luncheons.

St. Vincent de Paul Council of Catholic Women

Report for October – November 2026

Submitted by: Jody Smith, President

October Spiritual Theme – "Your 41 is Coming"

Forty days represents a period of testing, trial, and waiting, and the 41st day is the symbolic end of those trials. Our focus was the Pope's intention "For mental health ministry: establishing mental health support and help overcome the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental illness." We participated in a few "stress buster" exercises in hopes of equipping members with ways to cope with stress.

Boxes of Joy

All 100 Boxes of Joy were handed out following Masses and during the October meeting, and we continue to have requests from both parishioners and CCW members who "missed out." We've asked them to bring the items in shoe boxes anyway, and we'll "figure it out" on November 14th.

Fall Festival

This was the 2nd year St. Vincent's CCW participated in the St. Vincent's School and Parish Fall Festival by providing an opportunity to create bead bracelets. There were beads for all ages, colors, and designs this year, and it was a hit for people of all ages. A huge thank you to Susan Vaughn, who provided the materials and coordinated the event.

Woman of the Year

St. Vincent's Woman of the Year, Sharon Gibb, will be formally recognized by the Parish now that Mindi and Jeff have returned.

November Theme – "Hope and Perseverance"

Our service projects will include collecting and signing holiday cards to be given to shut-ins and patients in various nursing homes and the hospital, and putting together "spiritual aid bags" which will be given to patients and family members throughout the year. We will also be providing each CCW member and the OCIA members with the Advent reflections book Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas: Waiting in Joyful Hope 2026–2027 by Peter Dwyer.

Ongoing Ministries

Members continue to pray daily for the Pope, Bishop, clergy, and seminarians; host coffee and donuts on the 1st, 3rd, and every other 5th Sunday; help with funerals as needed; and continue to support the parish office by stuffing the weekly bulletins.

Closing Remarks

As we move into the Advent and Christmas seasons, I am deeply grateful for the faithful service of all our councils and their members. From prayer that reaches hearts across the nation to fundraisers, funeral luncheons, and acts of kindness for those in need, our councils truly are the hands and heart of Christ in our communities.

May we continue to listen to God's voice in our lives and serve one another with courage, love, and joy.

In Christ,

Teri Miller

President, Salt Lake Deanery CCW