

Wasatch Deanery Report

09-23-26

President's Report

Robin Marvive

Blessing's sisters in Christ. September is here which marks the beginning of our season. The WDCCW will be hosting a fund raiser this year and we will also be hosting the WDCCW convention. So many blessings that I believe God has his hand on is unfolding for all the affiliate parishes in the WDCCW. Barbara Keruoac and I received the blessing from the Bishop to start the CCW youth group at St. Martin de Porres, which we hope will expand to other parishes and Catholic schools. Though our intentions were to start the group sooner, we needed it to be God's time and not ours.

So many blessings are coming but I struggle to be joyful when so much sorrow of loss has affected our beautiful sisters recently. My heart, prayers and love go out to each of you. It is the love, prayers, and strength we receive from our sisters at times like this that make those grey sky's turn blue, the weight of loneliness a little lighter and the days seem bearable. It is because of you who extend your hand that makes someone feel as if Jesus is lifting them off the floor. When I was blessed to be president of the CCW of St. Martin de Porres we would have a membership dinner to end the year. Every year I recited the following poem and feel like today is a good day to share it with you. May God Bless you all and protect you.

Imagine A Woman

Imagine a woman who believes it is right and good she is a woman.

A woman who honors her experience and tells her stories.

Who refuses to carry the sins of others within her body and life.

Imagine a woman who trusts and respects herself.

A woman who listens to her needs and desires.

Who meets them with tenderness and grace.

Imagine a woman who acknowledges the past's influence on the present.

A woman who has walked through her past.

Who has healed into the present.

Imagine a woman who authors her own life.

A woman who exerts, initiates, and moves on her own behalf.

Who refuses to surrender except to her truest self and wisest voice.

Imagine a woman who loves God

A woman who imagines the divine in her image and likeness.

Who designs a personal spirituality to inform her daily life.

Imagine a woman in love with her own body.
A woman who believes her body is enough, just as it is.
A woman who celebrates the accumulation of her years and her wisdom.
Who refuses to use her life-energy disguising the changes in her body and life.

Imagine a woman who values the women in her life.
A woman who sits in circles of women.
Who is reminded of the truth about herself when she forgets.

Imagine yourself as this woman

Vice President's Report

Katherine Martin:

Hello, ladies. My name is Katherine Martin, and I am honored to be your new Wasatch Deanery Vice-President.

I am a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament, where I have been a member of the parish for over 20 years. I have been married to my husband, Joseph, for 23 years, and together we have four children, ages 12, 15, 16, and 21.

When I began thinking about what I should include in my first report, I wasn't quite sure where to begin. I decided to focus on Our Lady of Sorrows, which I felt was a beautiful and meaningful way to begin this new year of service.

September invites us to reflect on Our Lady of Sorrows and the Seven Sorrows that Mary experienced throughout her life. As women of the Council of Catholic Women, we can look to Mary as an example of faith, strength, and perseverance during times of difficulty.

Mary experienced sorrow as she watched Simeon's prophecy unfold, fled with Jesus into Egypt, searched for Jesus when He was lost, met Him carrying His Cross, stood at the foot of the Cross during His Crucifixion, received His body after His death, and witnessed Him being laid in the tomb. Through each sorrow, Mary remained faithful and trusted in God.

As we begin a new year of service within our deanery, may we remember that our own challenges and sorrows can become opportunities to grow closer to Christ. Like Mary, may we stand beside one another, offer support and encouragement, and continue to serve our parishes and communities with love.

May Our Lady of Sorrows guide us, strengthen us, and help us say "yes" to God even during difficult times.

Gabby Gauchay:

Gabby Gauchay Immediate Past President's Report

I cannot believe that it is already FALL! This is my favorite time of the year. The weather is just right, the excitement of the holidays is just starting - and with that excitement comes much business! For all of us! Our communities are bustling, planning for holiday projects are underway and we can find ourselves in the race to the end of the year. But, I would like to invite and even challenge you to slow down, enjoy the fall colors and crisp mornings that warm up as the day emerges and really lean into what God is telling you during this time. Enjoy the activities you are involved in and look at them with joy and cherish those you spend those hours of preparation with.

Speaking of those you spend time with, get ready to show off your council! October is Council Recognition Month. During October, we are given the opportunity to celebrate the magnificent, holy, and sometimes wonderfully chaotic work of our councils. It is also a great time to educate the women of your parish on what your council is all about and maybe recruit some new members! I encourage every council to take a moment this October to celebrate. Host a special coffee donut social, hand out little tokens of appreciation, or simply pray together in a special way. We see you, we love you, and our churches would not be the same without your joyful service.

Now, I know we are just getting into sweater weather, but I need you to fast-forward your imagination to the beautiful blooms of spring! Mark your calendars right now for our DCCW Convention April 16th - 18th, 2027. It is going to be an unforgettable weekend of faith, fellowship, and renewal - and WE, the Wasatch Deanery gets the pleasure of HOSTING! The last time we hosted, I was truly blessed to be the Hostess Chair, and it was a wonderful time that helped me step out of my shell, meet new women and serve! I just know that this coming convention, an even better time will be had and I look forward to hosting with YOU.

Thank you for your endless energy, your beautiful faith, and for making our diocese the most welcoming place to be. May your autumn be filled with abundant blessings, holy laughter, and just the right amount of apple cider.

In Christ's Joy,

Gabby Gauchay

DCCW 1st Vice President/President Elect

Affiliate Reports

St. Francis of Assisi – Orem, UT

On Sunday, August 2nd, we held our annual parish picnic and welcomed our new Parochial Vicar, Rev. Nitech Gomez.

On Saturday, August 22nd, we gathered as a group for our Craft Saturday. We made crafts for our December Boutique That will be held on Saturday December 5th from 3pm- 8pm and Sunday December 6th from 8am – 4pm. Our Parish had a fundraising festival on the weekend of September 12th and 13th. The women of St. Francis sold baking goods and tickets for the upcoming dinner dance.

For our Jubilee Year St. Francis of Assisi will be having several activities at our parish.

10/1 Presentation by Rev. Garret Edmunds, the last Franciscan pastor of Provo in the gym at 7pm

10/2 Presentation by Elliot Wise, a BYU Art History Professor who is an expert on Medieval and Franciscan Art. Fr. Garret will celebrate the traditional Transitus Liturgy in our church at 9pm.

10/3 We will be having the blessings of the animals with procession at 11am

10/4 The annual Women of St. Francis will be hosting our annual dinner dance. A fundraiser for our church. Music provided by a DJ, Mexican food and a salsa contest.

St. Peter – American Fork, UT

We had our first meeting on September 8th. We are having an underwear drive for the Primary Surgery Center in October. This helps when they are nervous without additional underwear and helps them keep warm and secure. We are going to have bake sale coming up in November and we will be participating in the Box of Joy and we will be a location for drop off – Call Chris for an appointment.

St. Thomas More - Cottonwood Heights, UT

The Ladies of St. Thomas More had a fun summer with our three Meet and Mingle meetings that were held at three different homes of our members. We gathered and ate, drank, chatted, and laughed together each time. It was a ton of fun.

We began preparations for our Christmas Boutique and Luncheon that will take place on December 12. That is always a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun.

I got one of our main storage rooms cleaned out and am proud of how it turned out. We can walk in there again!

We had our first business meeting after summer break and charted out our year nicely.

We had good participation and cooperation.

I think this fall will be a good one!

Blessed Sacrament – Sandy, UT

June

We hosted a table at our Parish Feast Day to promote our group and share information about our ministries. It was a wonderful opportunity to build community, connect with fellow parishioners, and highlight the many ways our group serves the parish.

Our annual Garage Sale was held June 12–13 and was once again a great success.

We are grateful to everyone who donated items, volunteered their time, and supported the sale.

For Father's Day, we handed out keychains along with prayer cards to all the fathers in our parish as a small token of appreciation for their love and dedication to their families and our parish community.

July

On July 15, we did not hold our regular meeting. Instead, we gathered at Maria's Mexican Grill for a fun evening of fellowship and socializing. It was a wonderful opportunity for the ladies to spend time together and enjoy each other's company.

August

We held our regular meeting in August and began planning our annual Holiday Blessings Boutique, which will take place in November.

After the meeting, we enjoyed playing "Got It," a Catholic Bingo game featuring Saints and Church-themed bingo cards. It was a fun way to end the evening, and we awarded two prizes to the winners.

St. Martin de Porres - Taylorsville, UT

We had our first meeting on September 16th with a great turnout. We hosted a wine and cheese event and had Angela Davis owner of Posh Platters teach us how to create a charcuterie cup. We had new members attend and were blessed to share upcoming events and opportunities. We will be hosting our annual Fall Festival on October 24th and 25th. Vendors are still needed. We look forward to serving our parish, our community and helping where we can.

St. Joseph the Worker - West Jordan, UT

We met on Monday, September 14, 2026 after our summer break. Due to demands on our social hall, we have had to change our meetings to the 2nd Monday of the month.

We begin with a potluck social a half hour before the meeting starts. This gives everyone time to socialize and then we can get down to business when the meeting starts. We have enjoyed doing this for many years. We also start each meeting with a short talk on a spiritual topic given by one of our women. We are looking forward to working again with our Knights of Columbus on joint projects for the parish. At our September meeting we will decide on our October Council Sunday date. We will be handing out bookmarks as invitations to join for the women of the parish.

We are setting up a committee to review our bylaws.

Susan Espinoza

St. Joseph the Worker CCW President

St. Francis Xavier - Kearns, UT

he St Francis Xavier CCW has officially concluded its scheduled break. Activities are resuming as the council prepares for the upcoming fall calendar.

Peter and Paul - West Valley, UT

They would like to find someone in our parish to take over the leadership of this group.

Commission Reports

Spirituality - Ranae Lupus

Spiritually Report - RANAEL Lupus

Seven Sorrows of Mary

The Prophecy of Simeon: Simeon tells Mary a sword will pierce her heart

The Flight into Egypt: Mary and Joseph flee into Egypt to protect infant Jesus from King Herod.

The Loss of the Child Jesus: Mary and Joseph search for Jesus in the Temple for three days.

Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary: Mary sees Jesus carrying His Cross to His Crucifixion.

The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus: Mary stands at the foot of the cross and watches her Son die.

Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross: Mary receives the lifeless body of Jesus into her arms.

The Burial of Jesus: Mary witnesses the body of Jesus being placed in the tomb.

The Seven Sorrows of Mary reflect timeless human pain, mirroring modern struggles like family separation, violence, illness, and the anxiety

Finding Comfort Today:

Shared Pain: Mary experienced deep grief, showing that sadness and pain are normal parts of life.

Empathy: Believers turn to her in prayer, trusting that she understands modern heartbreak.

Inner Strength: Reflecting on her endurance teaches people how to keep going through personal hardships.

May we always reflect on Mary to help us through our life.

Amen

Leadership - Jamie Beert

Happy Fall, hope you all were able to enjoy your summer spending time with family and friends. Now with fall seems like I am already starting to plan for the holidays, that will be here before I know it. As many Affiliates are starting to hold their CCW meetings, thought I would share some ideas for running a successful and engaging meeting.

Before the Meeting:

- Define a purpose or theme of each meeting. It's always great to have something besides just the business section of the meeting. Ideas of having a speaker, activity, craft, service project collection.
- Create an agenda for the meeting and share with women at least a week ahead of the meeting.
- Advertise meeting invitation (in Parish bulletin, on announcement boards, poster board on an easel, CCW member share information during Mass announcements) a few weeks before the meeting with date/time and information about the meeting to share with all the women in the Parish.
- Ensure women are aware of the expectations and/or contributions needed for the meeting.
- For first meeting consider creating a questionnaire and/or list of know officers, committees, events that need volunteers to pass out to attendees for them to select things they are interested in.
- Ensure speakers are aware of expectations and expected number of attendees if they have handouts.
- Ensure the needs for A/V for a speaker are available and ready.

During the Meeting

- Start with social time (can be 15-30 mins), this will let people catch up, get comfortable (could help eliminate some of the sidebar conversations during the meeting).
- Follow the agenda, respect the clock and keep discussions on track
- Allow all to speak and be open to all ideas. Having a "we always have done it this way" perception, you can miss out on some great ideas for change. Being open to new ideas and change helps newer members feel valued and welcome. Encourage active listening.
- Suggest to some of the members who have been involved for many years to sit next to newer members rather than their usual group. Strike up conversations with the newer members. Help ask clarifying questions that newer members may be reluctant or intimidated to ask. You could break into discussion groups to accomplish this.
- Present the questionnaire/list to members, have current officers, committee members, lead for event talk about what their position means and expectations. Let people share what areas they are interested in helping with / learning about, rather than just saying "we need women to volunteer, help, etc" and pass around or set up signup sheets around the room, with the women not really understanding what each means or what expectations are to add

their name. Express how the more women who say “Yes”, the easier each task becomes.
“Many hands make light work”

- Try to have something different at each meeting such as different themes, activities, speakers or even simply reversing the agenda. When ending the meeting, create excitement with announcing what is coming up the next month.
- At the end of the meeting be sure to summarize any action items, upcoming events, next meeting.
- **After the Meeting**
- Ensure the minutes not only capture the activities of the meeting, but also capture and highlight any action items and information about the next meeting. Share the meeting minutes as soon as possible after the meeting, for those who couldn't attend to see what occurred at the meeting. Also for those with action items, so they are clear on their assigned task. Send the minutes out again with the call to meeting /invite to the next meeting.
- Hold those with action items accountable for completing their tasks. Just a simple check in to see if they need any help or request for status is all that is needed. Do not micro-manage them, this could make them feel not trusted to complete the task and will discourage many from taking on tasks. It is important for them to feel trusted and empowered.

Wasatch Deanery

We are the hosting Deanery for convention on April 17-18, 2027. There are many tasks that need to be discussed, volunteers needed, and tasks to be completed before and during convention. We have LOTS of women in our Deanery, so please say YES so we can spread the tasks among many and not have a few women overwhelmed.

Deanery Meeting October 10th at St Thomas More

Next Deanery Meeting is November 7th, following the DCCW Meeting at St Martin de Porres

Bylaws / Standing Rules Committee – We will be updating the Bylaws and Standing Rules next year, please review them and provide any feedback, ideas, changes to me for the next revision.

DCCW

The DCCW Board was held Sept 26, 2026, at Christ the King, Cedar City, UT.

Next DCCW Board meeting will be November 7th at St Martin de Porres, Taylorsville, UT

Province of San Francisco

Marcie Downs and Bonnie Siegrist are our new Co-Province Directors. Congrats to both ! Thanks for taking this role on!

NCCW

Monthly Member & Rosary Calls – If you cannot make the member call, video recordings are available on the member only page of the NCCW Website. (Another reason to get your individual membership!)
NCCW Convention – 2026 Convention was August 26-29 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Looking forward to hearing information from those who attended. NCCW 2027 convention will be August 25 to 28, 2027, at the Sheraton Milwaukee Brookfield Hotel in Brookfield,

Jamie Beert
Leadership Commission Chair
9/2026

9/2026 **Historian/Website –**

Wasatch Deanery Historian Fall Report

As Historian for the Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women, I am delighted to help preserve and share the stories, milestones, and affiliate contributions that shape our deanery's legacy. Before being installed as DCCW President, I served in this role at the diocesan level. With the upcoming 100-year anniversary of the formation of the DCCW in Utah in 2028, I look forward to the contributions we can make as a deanery to the celebration of this milestone.

The Wasatch Deanery Council of Catholic Women was officially formed in May 1986, although the deaneries as we know them today were previously known as districts. Pat Voorhes was the first president of the WDCCW while she was a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament, and she later served as DCCW President from 1992 to 1994.

Pat, now a parishioner of St. Vincent de Paul (which used to be in the Wasatch Deanery) went on to serve as San Francisco Province Director in 2019 and NCCW President from 2021 to 2023. Susan Neilson and Jeanne Audiss have also served as Province Directors, and most recently, Bonnie Siegrist was installed as a co-Province Director. Since 1986, nine of the twenty-one DCCW Presidents have come from the Wasatch Deanery.

The parishes in our deanery also have a rich history. Many were formed in the late 1800s and early 1900s to serve Catholic immigrant communities working in mining and railroad construction. Many of these older parishes serve as mission churches today. The oldest active affiliate is St. Francis of Assisi, which was formed in 1892 in Provo and relocated to Orem in 2000. Most of our affiliates were established in the mid-1960s to 1980s, with St. John the Baptist becoming the newest when its church was dedicated in 2003 after beginning as a mission to Blessed Sacrament in 1981.

In June 2016, our Historian created a Facebook page for the WDCCW, and today our website provides easy access to important news and information, including meeting minutes and reports from previous meetings. These tools help us preserve our shared history, and I encourage each affiliate to use them to highlight its activities, celebrate its members, and contribute to the ongoing story of the Wasatch Deanery.

Service – Janet Healy

Happy almost Fall! I'm so excited for fall, like many of you. Fall is just right around the corner. I would like to introduce myself, Janet Healy from St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church in Taylorsville. Earlier this summer I felt very blest to be asked by our Wasatch Deanery President Robin Marvive to chair the Service Commission seat. Like many of you, church and community service has been our way of life. This is just what we do! But do we ever take time to think how our service and charitable acts apply to the Corporal Works of Mercy.

I would like to present my first report and share with you one of my favorite Catholic charities, Catholic Community Services of Utah. I know many of you are familiar with this agency. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work there and witness the Corporal Works of Mercy in action by both the volunteers and employees. I would like to share how some of their programs apply to their work.

Feed the Hungry: St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall (SLC), Joyce Hansen Food Bank & Bridging the Gap (Ogden)

Give Drink to the Thirsty: St. Vincent de Paul Soup Dining Hall (SLC), Joyce Hansen Food Bank & Bridging the Gap (Ogden)

Clothe the Naked: Bishop Weigand Resource Center, St. Martha's Baby Project Salt Lake City and St. Martha's Baby Project Ogden

Shelter the Homeless: Refugee Resettlement, Refugee Foster Care and Immigration

Visit the Sick: Refugee Resettlement

Visit the Prisoned: Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City

Bury the Dead: Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City

There are many donation and volunteer opportunities for us as an individual or groups, as a one-time opportunity or extended opportunity to work on our Corporal Works of Mercy through Catholic Community Services of Utah, here are a few examples:

Bishop Weigand Resource Volunteer – Clothing Room & Laundry Room Volunteer

St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall – Kitchen & Dining Hall Volunteer

Refugee Family Mentor – Refugee Job Development Volunteer and Refugee Youth

Mentor - Refugee Youth Tutor – Refugee Public Transit Orientation Volunteer

Please check out their website www.ccsutah.org for more information if you or your group are interested in these volunteer or donation opportunities.

God has blessed us in so many ways and has giving us opportunities to work on our Corporal Works of Mercy. May God continue to bless you on your charitable acts.

Legislative Report

Joan Simard - Donna Murphy

WDCCW Legislative Report | September 2026

Joan Camarro Simard, WDCCW Legislative Co-Chair

Hello, everyone. I hope you enjoyed the summer and are settling back into your normal routines. I recently attended the National Council of Catholic Women convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan, where I learned practical ways that Catholic women can engage in informed, respectful legislative advocacy.

I attended a Lunch and Learn session offered by the Legislation Commission titled “Legislative Advocacy—A Better Kind of Politics.” Speakers Ingrid Delgato and Michele Pickem reviewed Pope Leo’s perspective on Catholic political teaching and connected it to documents that interpret the Gospels through the theme of social justice: *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labor) by Pope Leo XIII, *Deus Caritas Est* (God Is Love) by Pope Benedict, and *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) by Pope Francis.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) supports *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. The speakers reported finding bipartisan agreement in conversations with legislators about pro-life and affordable-housing issues. They also shared a practical insight from the session: legislators may begin paying closer attention to an issue after receiving approximately 10 communications from constituents requesting action on a specific bill.

Next, the speakers demonstrated the USCCB website (USCCB.org), which provides resources for reviewing legislation and contacting elected officials. During the presentation, I put that guidance into practice by using the site to submit letters supporting religious workers and their visas.

These experiences reinforced that informed, respectful communication can influence public policy. I encourage WDCCW members to review current legislative priorities, contact their elected officials about issues consistent with Catholic social teaching, and respond to future legislative updates with timely action.