

## Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

### President's Report

June 13, 2026

In preparation for my first report as DCCW President, I have been reviewing minutes and agendas from prior DCCW June board meetings to see what topics we typically address. Our June Board meeting serves as our “Convention Wrap-up.” We will receive assessments from convention chairs, review attendee feedback, and share any Council updates since the convention. While many councils pause formal meetings during the summer, our mission does not pause. Two years ago, in his Spiritual Advisor’s remarks at our June meeting, Father Ariel reminded us that our mission of proclaiming the good news of salvation is ongoing—as members of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, we remain called to bring the presence of Christ to our families, our parish ministries, and to the entire life of the diocese.

As we reflect on Pentecost and the witness of the early Church, the question before us is how to sustain that same spiritual energy in our own leadership. One practical way is to learn from the saints, whose lives show us how Scripture is lived with courage, prayer, and fidelity to daily service.

For Councils taking a summer pause, this season can still be a time of renewal. Reading about the lives of women saints can strengthen perspective, deepen prayer, and refresh our sense of mission. Some of my favorite resources that offer strong faith-filled examples include: *The Friendship Project*, *The Story of a Soul*, *Come Be My Light*, *Cloud of Witnesses*, and NCCW’s *Holy Women on the Pathway to Canonization*. Our Blessed Mother is our model for discerning and living out our vocations. She teaches us how to live our lives joyfully with certainty and perseverance, especially when bearing difficult crosses.

One especially practical resource is *Joyful Momentum: Growing and Sustaining Vibrant Women’s Groups* by Elizabeth Tomlin. I mentioned it briefly at our November board meeting, and our MDR team has also recommended it as a resource for strengthening councils. Its guidance is practical, encouraging, and directly applicable to women’s ministry leadership.

*Joyful Momentum* addresses core leadership priorities including foundational relationships, discernment, hospitality, service, assessment, conflict resolution, and mentorship. Grounded in Scripture and the witness of holy women, it offers a strong framework for councils seeking both spiritual depth and organizational vitality.

A recurring theme in the lives of the saints is the balance of courage and surrender. As Catholics, we believe courage is not an absence of fear but the ability to overcome fear by relying and trusting in God. For our councils, this means acting with humility and leading with confidence, prayer, and openness to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If your council is taking a break this summer, I encourage you not to disengage from the mission. Keep your council in prayer, revisit the DCCW mission statement regularly, and ask the Holy Spirit to show you ways to strengthen your council’s witness and readiness in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Porter

*Peace Begins with a Smile: St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta*