

SALT LAKE DEANERY

Council of Catholic Women

President's Report

June – September 2026

President's Message

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted to share this comprehensive report on the wonderful activities of our Salt Lake Deanery and its affiliates during this past quarter. Our summer has been filled with spiritual renewal, meaningful service, and the joyful fellowship that defines our community. Most significantly, I had the profound privilege of attending the National Council of Catholic Women Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan in August—an experience that has deeply enriched my faith and vision for our deanery.

National Council of Catholic Women Convention – Grand Rapids, Michigan

An Amazing Experience

I cannot emphasize enough how transformative this convention experience has been for me. This gathering of Catholic women from across the nation was truly beautiful. The theme,

"Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening"

spoke profoundly to my heart. In our daily lives, we often become so focused on comfort and simplicity that we forget to truly listen to God. This theme challenges us to remember that God may call us beyond the comfortable, and we must be ready to listen and respond. I highly recommend that all of you make every effort to attend next year's convention in Wisconsin. You will not regret it. You will return home refreshed, renewed, and ready to listen to the Lord's call in your lives.

Outstanding Keynote Speakers

Kevin Matthews – "Broken Mary: A Journey of Hope"

Kevin Matthews shared an extraordinarily inspirational story about discovering a broken statue of the Virgin Mary discarded by dumpsters. Rather than leaving her there, he took her in, restored her, and gave her new life. His story is a powerful metaphor for hope and redemption. Kevin Matthews has written a book and produced a movie, both titled

Broken Mary

I highly recommend both the book and film. His message reminds us that with God's help, we all can accomplish remarkable things and restore broken things in our communities and our world.

We are all broken and Jesus loves everyone of us.

Mary Lenaburg – Faith, Resilience, and the Holy Spirit

Mary Lenaburg, author of

Be Brave in the Scared, Be Bold in the Broken, and her newest book, *Restored and Resilient: Walking Boldly with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit*, delivered a profoundly moving keynote. She courageously shared her personal journey, including significant struggles in her marriage and the challenges of raising a severely disabled daughter. Her testimony of how faith and the Holy Spirit enabled her family to overcome these tremendous obstacles was overwhelming in the best way—heartbreaking yet filled with hope and incredible resilience.

Mary Lenaburg and her husband Jerry also host a podcast, ***The Mary and Jerry Podcast***, where they continue to share their faith journey. I encourage you to explore her books and podcast for continued spiritual nourishment.

The Experience of Community and Faith

The National Convention was truly beautiful in every way. Over four days, we were blessed to have more than 10 priests and one bishop present at every Mass. On Saturday evening alone, we had 3 bishops and at least 15 priests celebrating with us. This is truly a rare and precious gift. In Utah, we don't often experience such an abundance of priestly presence, and it was deeply moving.

Beyond the formal sessions, the joy was in meeting Catholic women from across the entire nation—sharing our struggles, our victories, and the ways we bring God's word to our communities. These connections reminded me of the power of our sisterhood in Christ and the universal mission we share.

I return from Grand Rapids refreshed, inspired, and recommitted to helping our deanery

"Listen" to our Lord. We are God's servants, and He is speaking to us. There is so much we can do together to bring God's word to our communities, and I am eager to continue this work with all of you.

Affiliate Council Reports

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

St. Vincent de Paul Council of Catholic Women Report for September 2026

Submitted by: Jody Smith, President

St. Vincent's new board has hit the ground running following the installation of officers in June. The council moved its board meetings to the First Saturday of the month, following the 9:00 AM Mass, in recognition of the First Saturday devotion as requested by Our Lady of Fatima—a meaningful spiritual practice that grounds our leadership in prayer and Marian devotion.

The council's By Laws and Standing Rules have been revised and will be voted on in October. The budget was set and distributed in September, ensuring fiscal responsibility and transparency as we move into the new program year.

Each month throughout the 2026-2027 program year will be focused first on a spiritual theme. Our September 14 theme focused on the Pope's intention for Water Sustainability. The meeting included a compelling clean versus dirty water demonstration, meaningful discussion, and water conservation-themed bingo. The council handed out invitations on small water bottles and personally invited women of the parish to participate.

St. Vincent's CCW has established a "bottom of the purse" (BOP) collection basket with monthly donations that will be distributed to various charities throughout the year. This month's donations are being given to the collaborative NCCW and CRS "Water For Life" program, directly supporting the month's spiritual theme and advancing the Church's global mission.

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. The council exemplifies consistent, faithful service rooted in prayer and community care.

Our Lady of Lourdes Council, Magna Three-Month Report: June–August 2026

Submitted by Bernadette Moore, President

Our Lady of Lourdes CCW has enjoyed a busy summer filled with fellowship, service, fundraising, and preparation for the months ahead.

June

Our CCW ladies continued supporting parish activities and hosted Car Wash Fundraisers with wonderful participation from members and the parish community. We continued working together to support parish needs and prepared for upcoming fall activities.

July

We supported our parish community throughout the summer and enjoyed a brief respite from regular monthly meetings. Our parish community gathered for the Knights of Columbus 4th of July Breakfast at Magna Copper Park, providing a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and family celebration.

August

We began preparing for a very busy fall season, including our Annual Basket Raffle and Dinner. Plans were made to resume regular CCW meetings in September, and members began organizing volunteers, donations, and preparations for upcoming parish events.

Looking Ahead to September

We are excited to begin meeting again! Our first gathering will be Pizzelle Making on Thursday, September 10, from 3:00–7:00 PM, with dinner provided. We are also busy preparing for our Annual Basket Raffle and Dinner on September 27, inviting all ladies to help with preparations, dinner service, clean-up, and basket donations.

We are grateful for all of our CCW ladies who continue to give their time, talents, and love to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. We look forward to another wonderful season of faith, friendship, and service together. God bless all of our CCW ladies!

Saint Marguerite Council Report for June – September 2026

Submitted by: Gracemarie Belvedere, President

We are usually on hiatus from June through August, but this year's break was anything but quiet. On June 27th, we were honored to host the Salt Lake Deanery meeting.

In August, we celebrated Deacon Max Flaim's 94th birthday and 50th Ordination Anniversary with a special dinner on August 21. Over the next two days, we led a parish-wide celebration after each Mass for Father Ken's 35th Ordination Anniversary, which included a surprise visit from mariachis on Sunday. The following weekend, we assisted as needed and donated a large gift basket to the Annual Fall Festival, which benefits the parish.

After a focused effort to recruit new members, we will gather again on September 21 for a potluck, human bingo, a meeting, and a lively team game of Catholic Jeopardy. It promises to be an exciting evening!

Cathedral Women's Society Report for June – August 2026

Submitted by Delia Bayna, President

June

The Cathedral Women's Society hosted an iPhone for Seniors class, helping participants become more comfortable and confident using their phones. This valuable program was well-received by those seeking to enhance their digital literacy. We also worked with one participant who had an Android phone, providing individual assistance and answering her specific questions to ensure everyone felt supported and included.

July

The Cathedral Women's Society took the month of July off for our summer break, allowing members time to rest and recharge.

August

In August, we volunteered at Good Samaritan, where we packed lunches for those experiencing homelessness. This hands-on service embodied our mission to care for the most vulnerable in our community and brought tangible relief and dignity to those in need.

Catholic Women's League Report for September 2026

Submitted by: Lorraine West, President

Our last meeting was held in May, with members enjoying a summer break. We gathered for our annual tradition of a picnic and bingo on August 8th, an event that is held every year and welcomes all to participate. Narda Nordell does a beautiful job hosting this beloved event.

We resumed our activities for the new year 2026 and 2027 on August 25th. Currently, we are working very hard on our Annual Fall Luncheon and Fashion Show, which will be held on October 24th at St. Thomas Moore Church. More information will be shared as details are finalized.

The Catholic Women's League continues its commitment to community concerns. We are currently collecting socks—men's, women's, and children's—in fun colors and patterns. These socks will be donated to those in need within our community. All community drives are coordinated by Rosalie Maribelli, whose dedicated leadership ensures these initiatives reach those they serve.

The Catholic Women's League remains committed to helping those in need in our community while promoting the principles of our Catholic faith.

St. Patrick's Council of Catholic Women Report for June – September 2026

Submitted by Cynthia Acosta, Co-President

St. Patrick's CCW continues to serve the parish with dedication and service. The council remains actively involved in the First Saturday of the month bingo, an ongoing parish tradition that provides community fellowship and entertainment.

During this period, members have been involved in updating and making small repairs in the parish social hall. The council purchased new blinds and completed repairs on window seals as well as trimming on the walls. Janel Tafoyas's family graciously installed the new blinds, demonstrating the collaborative spirit of our community.

The council helped prepare tickets for the parish opportunity drawing and assisted with various parish celebrations, including First Holy Communion and Confirmation receptions, where members provided hospitality and refreshments for these important sacramental milestones.

Additionally, Janel and other council members are serving on the DDD (Diocesan Development Dedication) committee, bringing their talents and commitment to diocesan initiatives.

Upcoming Event

Boutique – October 3rd: If anyone is interested in getting a table to sell products, contact Cynthia Acosta. The cost per table is \$30.

Saint Olaf Parish Council of Catholic Women Deanery Report for 2026

Submitted by: Emily Craven, President

Leadership and New Officer Installation

A New Officer Installation Ceremony took place on September 9th to kick off the new year, followed by a social time and potluck refreshments. The newly installed officers for Saint Olaf's Council are:

President: Emily Craven

Vice President: Carrie Auer

Treasurer: Michelle Hale

Secretary: Krista Lemoine

Summer Planning

Over the summer, the financial committee met to work on the upcoming year's budget. The council also met as an executive board to plan the upcoming year's events and projects, ensuring a strong foundation for the ministry ahead.

Upcoming Events

October – Interfaith Community Dinner: Saint Olaf's CCW will host the Interfaith Community Dinner at The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection, fostering dialogue and connection across faith communities.

October – Council Sunday: The council will celebrate Council Sunday by passing out carnations and flyers about Saint Olaf Parish's Council of Catholic Women, raising awareness and inviting broader parish participation.

Upcoming Deanery Events

The following important deanery gathering is scheduled for 2027:

Deanery Meeting

Date January 23, 2027

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Cathedral of the Madeleine

Spring Luncheon

Date: March 13, 2027

Time: 8:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Scanlan Hall, Cathedral of the Madeleine

Closing Remarks

As we close this reporting period and move into the fall season, I am deeply grateful for the faithful service of all our councils and their members. The comprehensive reports submitted by each affiliate showcase the beautiful and vital work being done across our deanery—from deep spiritual growth and prayer to vibrant community service and meaningful fellowship.

Our councils exemplify the mission of Catholic Women, living out the Gospel through prayer, service, and sisterhood. From the spiritual themes guiding Saint Vincent de Paul's monthly meetings, to Our Lady of Lourdes' year-round fundraising and hospitality, to the Catholic

Women's League's compassionate community outreach, to each council's ongoing prayer life and parish support—we are truly living our baptismal call to bring Christ's love to our world.

The National Convention reinforced for me that we are part of something magnificent—a global sisterhood of Catholic women listening to God's call and responding with courage and love. As we continue forward, may we all remember the theme that moved my heart:

"Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening."

May we all continue to listen to God's voice in our lives and faithfully serve our communities with courage, love, and joy. Together, we are the hands and heart of Christ in our world.

In Christ,

Teri Miller
President, Salt Lake Deanery