



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

2026 SPRING ISSUE

DCCW PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Annette Pressley — St. Thomas More, Cottonwood Heights

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As I was busily writing one of my last reports and stressing over the deadline, my husband asked, "Does anyone read these reports?" I had to answer honestly, "I just don't know." I guess you just never know. That said, I am going to repeat part of my last AWARE report, because I unwittingly thought it was my last report as president, when this one will be my last. I do not think you can thank people enough for all their help and support.

I must thank my fellow officers: Susan Porter-Vice President/President Elect, Tish Ramos-Yarber-Secretary, Gaylynn Huffman-Treasurer, and Cynthia Acosta-Second Vice President-Ways and Means. They have done a fantastic job at trying to keep me in check. We have learned a lot together. My Advisory Board, the Commission Chairs, and all the Standing Committee Chairs, you perform an invaluable service, many times in the background. Job well done. It has truly been an honor to serve as the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's President and as challenging as it has been, I will truly miss it.

This report seems to be the trickiest. I am writing it in the middle of Lent, and you will be reading it after Easter and the Joy of the Resurrection, hopefully, still feeling the many blessings and embracing the good acts we practiced during Lent. I, for one, was taken by Pope Leo XIV's invitation for Lent this year and will try to take this not only throughout the year, but throughout my life. "I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves." Simple said:

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
- Fast from worries and trust in God
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful
- Fast from words and be silent, so you can listen

I leave you with a couple of random quotes that speak to me and might inspire you:

- Dahli Llama-If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.
- Rumi-You are not a drop in the ocean. You are an entire ocean in a drop.
- Muhammed Ali-The best ways to make your dreams come true is to wake up.

You can make a difference. As we look ahead to the rest of the year, let us always give thanks for the blessings we have been given and to share those blessings with those less fortunate.

Respectfully and humbly submitted by Annette Pressley, SLCDCCW President

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



Remember

THE AWARE NEWSLETTER

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DCCW SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
Father Ariel Durian- St. Peter, American Fork
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The Cross of Salvation Leads Us Toward the Joyful Resurrection

In the heart of the Christian faith stands the mystery of the Cross. For many, the Cross appears first as a sign of suffering, sacrifice, and even tragedy. Yet for Christians, the Cross is not the end of the story. The Cross is the pathway that leads to life, hope, and the radiant joy of the Resurrection. Through the Cross of Christ, suffering is transformed, death is defeated, and humanity is invited into the promise of eternal life.

The journey from the Cross to the Resurrection reveals the profound truth that God brings salvation not by avoiding suffering but by entering into it with love. When Jesus embraced the Cross, He carried not only the wood upon His shoulders but also the weight of humanity's sins, fears, and brokenness. In His sacrifice, He revealed the depth of God's mercy and the power of divine love. What seemed to be a moment of defeat became the greatest victory in the history of salvation.

The Cross teaches us that suffering, when united with Christ, is never meaningless. Every pain, every trial, and every sacrifice can become a place where God's grace works within us. Just as the Cross led Jesus to the Resurrection, our own crosses — when carried with faith — lead us toward transformation. The Christian life is therefore not simply about avoiding hardship, but about trusting that God can bring new life even from our darkest moments.

The Resurrection is the joyful fulfillment of what began on the Cross. The empty tomb proclaims that death does not have the final word. Christ rises in glory, and with His rising He opens the gates of hope for all humanity. The sorrow of Good Friday gives way to the radiant joy of Easter morning. This movement from suffering to glory is at the very center of the Christian journey.

For believers, the Cross becomes a sign of hope rather than despair. When we look upon the Cross, we remember that God walks with us in every struggle. The Cross assures us that love is stronger than hatred, forgiveness stronger than sin, and life stronger than death. In this way, the Cross becomes the bridge that carries us toward the joy of the Resurrection.

During the season of Lent and throughout the entire Christian life, we are invited to walk this sacred path with Christ. Through prayer, sacrifice, repentance, and acts of charity, we unite our lives more closely with His. As we carry our own crosses with patience and trust, we begin to see that the Cross is not merely a burden but a doorway — one that leads us toward renewal, redemption, and the joy that only the Risen Lord can give.

Thus, the Cross of salvation stands as a beacon for all believers. It reminds us that the road to resurrection always passes through love, sacrifice, and faithful perseverance. When we embrace the Cross with Christ, we do not remain in darkness; rather, we move steadily toward the light of Easter, where sorrow is turned into joy and death blossoms into everlasting life.

In the end, the message of the Cross is a message of hope: the Cross does not end in the tomb. The Cross leads us forward — toward the empty tomb, toward the glory of the Resurrection, and toward the eternal joy promised by the Risen Christ.

**DCCW FIRST VICE PRESIDENT /
PRESIDENT-ELECT**

**Susan Porter — St. John the Baptist, Draper
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If you are reading this newsletter at our 97th Annual DCCW Convention, I hope you are enjoying a fun and faith-filled weekend. As your Convention Co-Chair and Vice-President for the past two years, I have had the pleasure of assembling our convention print materials, most notably the convention program. I am truly amazed at the generosity of the many organizations like the Knights of Columbus and the businesses that support us. It is also noteworthy how our DCCW affiliates recognize and show gratitude to their Women of the Year and Officers. I invite you to take a look at these advertisements in our program and return the support if possible to the various businesses and organizations and to offer your congratulations to the Women of the Year who do so much for their parishes.

I am also pleased to recognize our two 2026 DCCW Convention Sponsors. Our past DCCW Presidents have graciously taken out a Diamond level sponsorship this year. Please see their full page ad in our convention program and stop by their display table to share your memories of past conventions. We will be celebrating our 100-year anniversary at the 99th Annual Convention in 2028. (Thanks Covid for getting us off by a year). Our other sponsor is EWTN who is once again supporting us with an Emerald level Sponsorship.

Your convention bags contain many “goodies,” among them an evaluation form and membership survey. We value your opinions on the convention, but we are particularly interested in hearing from those who would like to serve in some capacity on one of our commissions: Service, Spirituality, Leadership, and Legislative. Please read the descriptions of what these commissions entail; we are always looking for new people to fill these positions. The DCCW has no shortage of experienced members who are willing to accompany and mentor you if you are interested in taking on one of these roles.

On the back cover of the convention program, you will find our DCCW Mission Statement. As I move up to the presidency, I want to focus on the first two words which are “to unite.” There is so much division in our world today, and it is my hope that we can all remember that we are united in our Catholic faith and our belief in the Eucharist: “Blessed, Broken, and Shared”

Finally, thank you to all of my fellow DCCW Officers for your service and to all of the Committee and Commission Chairs, Deanery Presidents, and the Advisory Board. I look forward to working with you next year. Would love to name “names” but so afraid I would forget someone. Appreciate and love you ALL!



DCCW IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Barb Kerouac
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Hello ladies of the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. It is hard to believe another council year has passed and we get to reward ourselves with another Annual Convention. During this tumultuous time in history, it is a welcome relief to gather as Catholic Women for a Spirit & joy-filled weekend of relationship and sisterhood. I encourage all women of the Diocese to join in the fellowship enjoyed by all who attend the Annual Convention. You won't want to miss it once you attend one.

We will be installing the new Board of Officers at the convention Sunday. I want to thank every nominee who said yes. You are the future of DCCW and your new fresh ideas and leadership is greatly appreciated. Several ladies stepped out of their comfort zones to agree to be candidates. This is the first year we have an electronic vote to determine the next DCCW officers before the convention board meeting. The winners will be announced at the board meeting. It will be very interesting to see the outcome. The nominating committee searched out very qualified women for each office. They are Eastern Deanery, Becky Colombo; Northern Deanery, Cleo Mota; Salt Lake Deanery, Teri Miller; Southwest Deanery, Kathy Fazio; Wasatch Deanery, Jamie Beert; & Member at Large, Lydia Farnell and me. THANK YOU to those who served on the committee and those candidates who said "YES". I had dreaded this task, but you have made it actually quite enjoyable. Never be afraid to put yourself out there, blessings come in many forms with many qualified women to help you on the journey. The Holy Spirit moves us in so many ways, undetectable to most, but is always there in your need.

Congratulations to Annette Pressley, you have done an amazing job as President. Susan Porter will be installed as our new DCCW President Sunday of Convention. She will be looking to fill her 2026-2028 board positions, as will all the newly installed Deanery Presidents. I hope and pray that ladies all over the Diocese will answer the call to say "YES" when called upon to step up. Be a part of the future and bring forth new ideas, skills, and talents. After all, *1 Peter 4:10*, "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." Also look up *Romans 12:6-8*. We are all given talents to share, God says "do not be afraid, for I am with you". Trust Him and all will be according to His will.



DCCW PARLIAMENTARIAN
Jeannie Audiss
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Last year at our DCCW Convention we passed a resolution on End-of-Life Care and the Catholic teachings against assisted suicide and choosing Palliative Care instead. Palliative Care is not something to be scared of. In the Catholic tradition, human life is defended from conception to death. The sanctity of life is the fundamental underpinning of the Catholic Church's understanding of human existence. All life is to be valued and nurtured until the moment of death.

The Catholic Church doesn't have a specific, formal teaching on "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) orders, but it does emphasize the importance of using ordinary, proportionate means to preserve life, while also allowing the refusal of extraordinary or disproportionate treatments that offer little benefit or cause undue burden.

This resolution really hit home in January. My understanding of what Palliative Care means, and what can happen when someone does not have a DNR in place at end of life. My brother-in-law, Joe, who had suffered lymphoma a number of years, was in ICU on a ventilator. He was baptized and grew up Catholic. My sister was not; they hadn't practiced the Catholic faith for some time.

Joe did not have a DNR in place, so my sister was left to make the decision to keep Joe alive or remove the artificial means of life. My sister didn't have the courage to see if he would live off the ventilator. Many artificial procedures were performed to see if they would help. My brother-in-law never regained consciousness while I was there. Watching him struggle to breath on the ventilator was heart breaking. But watching my sister trying not to give up hope, was also heart breaking. After 25 days, my sister finally couldn't watch any longer, she had the doctors remove the ventilator. Joe died within minutes.

After my husband was killed in an automobile accident 21 years ago, I did have my affairs put in order, including a DNR, power of attorney, and updated my will. I would never ever want my children to go through what my sister faced.

The resolutions we pass at our annual convention have real meaning. We vote on them for a reason. I hope we all take the resolutions to heart and put them into practice.

DCCW SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Jessica Jurkowski, Co-Chair **Cathie Finger, Co-Chair**
St Mary, West Haven **St. Mary, West Haven**

We have been busy processing applications for scholarships for the 2026 DCCW Convention. It gives us great joy to report that fourteen women have been granted scholarship assistance. The Convention is always such a wonderful time to connect with others and feed our souls. We are happy to have played a small part in making this experience available for everyone.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (NCCW)

**Amy Kennedy — President
Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City**

Listening and Serving Together

Serving as President of the National Council of Catholic Women has given me many opportunities to see the beautiful ways Catholic women serve the Church across the country. Yet whenever I speak about NCCW, I often find myself thinking back to where it all began for me—with the women of the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW). The formation, friendships, and encouragement I received through DCCW shaped my understanding of what Catholic women can accomplish together. It is a gift to remain connected to this community while now serving at the national level.

This year, the theme guiding my service as NCCW President comes from the First Book of Samuel: **“Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.”** These simple words remind us that faithful leadership begins with listening—listening for God’s voice and listening for the needs around us. In our councils, this spirit of listening often leads to beautiful acts of service, quiet leadership, and the steady work that strengthens our parishes and communities.

The mission of NCCW continues to grow through the commitment of women like you. Our diocesan and parish councils are where the heart of this mission lives. When women gather to pray together, organize service projects, support one another, and respond to the needs of the Church, they are living out the very purpose of our councils. Whether you are actively serving in your parish council, supporting the work of DCCW, or simply staying connected through *AWARE*, you are part of something larger—a nationwide network of Catholic women united in faith and service.

Looking ahead, I also want to extend a special invitation. Registration will soon open for the **NCCW Annual Convention, August 26–29, 2026, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.** Our Conventions are always a joyful gathering of Catholic women from across the country who come together to pray, learn, and renew their commitment to service. I would be delighted to see many familiar faces from Utah there.

The women of DCCW have always known how to listen for the Lord—and how to respond with generous service. I am grateful to remain one of you.



DCCW MEMBERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCE TEAM

Michael O'Shea, Co-Chair
St. Anthony of Padua, Helper

Bonnie Siegrist, Co-Chair
Blessed Sacrament, Sandy

The DCCW Membership Development & Resource Team, MDR, was formed many years ago. Different women have served on the team all with the same purpose: to help support the needs of parish women's groups. The MDR team has helped groups get started, helped them to organize, grow, and operate more efficiently. Teams have given presentations on NCCW and what belonging means. *All you ever have to do is call*, and the MDR team will make a plan with your Council. Below are some areas we focused on this past Council year.

"Best Kept Secret?" If you attended the Utah Catholic Conference last September, we hope you were able to visit the DCCW information booth. We need to take every opportunity to get the word out about our parish and diocesan councils because we're still the "best kept secret" with many Catholic women in Utah. We need your HELP and SUPPORT in this. It's still surprising how many women don't realize their parish has a women's organization. Or, that CCW is more than just fundraisers. So publicize and invite... to your meetings, your events, and OUR annual DCCW convention.

What's it all about? We had an information table at the 2025 DCCW Annual Convention with handouts and sample resources available through DCCW and NCCW. You will again have the opportunity to stop by the MDR table at our 2026 convention. If you aren't able to attend this year, the MDR team will be happy to have these samples available at one of your Council meetings, with or without a presentation.

Gather and Use all the valuable NCCW resources available to affiliates especially the NCCW Guidance Manual, the Regain, Retain, and GROW booklet, the NCCW and DCCW websites, and take time to read the book JOYFUL MOMENTUM: GROWING AND SUSTAINING VIBRANT WOMEN'S GROUPS by Elizabeth Tomlin, available for online ordering.

Listen, Plan, and Communicate. We continue to stress how valuable it is for affiliates to make a plan and set goals for each new Council year using your bylaws, which allow everyone a voice in the planning and running of your organization. Listen and communicate. Is your group doing what your parish women are interested in? Are your meetings advertised, well-run, AND welcoming? Does your group follow your Bylaws and Standing Rules or does a select few run the show? Do you want a voice in your organization? Attend meetings whenever you can.

Speaking of bylaws.... Have you read your Councils? It's important to review and update your bylaws and standing rules, because as organizations change with the times, your bylaws should reflect changes you've made and approved in the manner stated in your bylaws. The MDR team can help you write them or update yours.

As the DCCW 2025-26 Council term ends at the close of our April convention, new DCCW committee chairs will be appointed (or reappointed) by our incoming DCCW President, Susan Porter, for her 2026-2028 term. The MDR team will carry on and continue to welcome all opportunities to serve DCCW, your councils, and you, whether supplying information or at best give presentations at meetings.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL!!

It's been a pleasure being on this team, and we want to thank our current DCCW President, Annette Pressley, for the opportunity to serve. We wish Susan Porter and the 2026-2028 newly elected DCCW officers and incoming Board of Directors much success.



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
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Our faith journey can be compared to tending a garden. God places unique gifts and talents within each of us—ones meant especially for us, unlike those of others. It is our responsibility to nourish these seeds, working diligently so they flourish and bring honor to God. This isn't always simple; it demands great commitment, as exemplified by the lives of the saints.

In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus shares the parable of the Sower and the Seed, where seeds land on different kinds of ground: hard, rocky, thorny, or fertile. This story encourages us to consider how we foster God's gifts in our own lives. Have pride, jealousy, or anger hardened my heart? Has fear or anxiety prevented me from accepting God's grace? Am I ready to let go of selfishness and devote myself to God, using my abilities to spread the gospel and strengthen the Church? These are questions only you can answer. Let us pray that our hearts may become gardens where God's gifts can grow and thrive.

Prayer to be a Garden

Cultivate joy, Holy Spirit, make my heart into your garden. Dig deeply, dig boldly, and dig freely. I resolve to put nothing in the way of Your cultivation. Weed and prune my heart as You desire. Water and cultivate my soul as You desire. Tend my heart as You please.

Cultivate love,
Cultivate peace,
Cultivate patience,
Cultivate kindness,
Cultivate goodness,
Cultivate faithfulness,
Cultivate gentleness,
Cultivate self-control,
Cultivate poverty of life,
Cultivate chastity of heart,
Cultivate obedience of mind.

Root out what does not belong in the garden of my heart, and use whatever tools You desire.
Root out the weeds of selfishness, that tempt me to keep my fruit for myself.
Root out the weeds that hide deep below the surface, the weeds I am afraid to expose to Your Sunlight.
Root out the weeds of vanity, that desperately seek the light of the world, only to wither.
Root out the weeds of fear, that keep me from even planting myself in Your soil.
Root out the weeds of worldly cares, which choke Your fruitfulness in me.

Prune the branches of my heart, of the genuine loves that must be separated from worldly and selfish clingings.
Prune my commitments and give clarity of where You desire for me to serve.
Prune my words, that my mouth may be used only to build up Your Kingdom.
Prune my desires, that I may seek to be cultivated by You always.
Prune my whole life, that by abiding in You and bearing fruit, I may prove to be Your disciple.
Amen. By: <https://youaremadenew.com/prayer-to-be-a-garden/>

This is my final Aware article as Spirituality Commission Chair.
May God bless you abundantly with His love, His grace and peace. Amen.
With continued love and friendship — Gracemarie

DCCW SERVICE COMMISSION

Pat Voorhes, Chair
St. Vincent de Paul Parish
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Help Us Feed Local Families by donating to our DCCW Convention Food Drive to benefit the

Center of Hope

Bring Meals in a Can to the DCCW Convention on Saturday, April 18, 2026 such as:

- Beef Stew
- Lasagna
- Spaghetti O's
- Beef Ravioli
- Chicken & Dumplings
- Mac & Cheese
- Minestrone Soup
- Lentil Soup

Or skip the cans and use



Ladies of Charity/
Center of Hope

Carmelite's

Bring 8 ounce canning jars/lids only, walnuts, sugar, marshmallow creme or gift cards for the Carmelites

or donate directly



Carmelite Monastery

Service Flyer Update March 5, 2026

Bring your cancelled stamps for Holy Cross Ministries

Bring your pop tabs for Ronald MacDonald House

Bring your eyeglasses to be donated to the Lions Club

Bring your Rosary's and travel hygiene items for St. Vincent de Paul Shelter

DCCW LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

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

Deanna Keller, Co-Chair
St. Mary, West Haven

The Utah State Legislative session finished on March 6th, 2026. One of the biggest losses was House Bill (HB 286) Artificial Intelligence Transparency Amendments which was sponsored by Representative Doug Fiebia and Senator Mike McKell, both Republicans. who had bipartisan support as the bill passed out of the House. The priority of this bill acknowledged that AI-driven chatbots which are likely to be accessed by minors must be subject to rigorous safeguards against manipulation, harmful content and severe emotional distress.

According to the Salt Lake Tribune article on March 7, 2026, an analysis from the progressive non-profit Voices for Utah Children found that under SB60, the top 1% of earners in Utah would save \$1,212 annually, while the bottom 20% - people making less than \$34,600 a year - would save \$13, and middle-class households that bring in between \$34,600 and \$157,300 would see annual savings between \$24 and \$57."

The article also included the passage of HB575 which "cuts the gas tax by six cents, down to 32 cents per gallon from the current 38 cents per gallon. The bill is temporary and intended to lower taxes during the summer months when gas is typically more expensive. It will go into effect July 1 and end December 21 of this year and will cost the state an estimated \$11.9 million in expected revenue."

Immigration has been a national debate issue, but it was also in the Utah Legislature this year. "Layton Republican Rep. Trevor Lee's HB88 sought to ban anyone in the country illegally from accessing public benefits, including vaccines, homeless shelters and nutrition assistance, among other benefits." Both President Stuart Adams and Governor Cox agreed this was not a good immigration bill because it was not the Utah Way and the governor said "But the way we do things matters, and trying to tell people at a food bank that they can't help someone unless they show them their papers, that's not how we do things."

Another immigration bill which did not pass and "raised concerns among immigration advocates was Rep. Stephanie Gricius, R-Eagle Mountain's HB141, which would impose a 2% tax on international money transmissions unless the sender could show certain forms of ID."

The Women's State Legislative Council (WSLC) had their Wrap Up Luncheon March 11 in the North Capitol Building which opened in January, 2026. Invited speakers included Democrat Minority Leader Representative Angela Romero and Republican Representative Kristen Chevrier to talk about the wins and losses for the session and they acknowledged how generally well bipartisanship went this session in the House as some of the larger differences were mainly between the Senate and the House. Our recently elected new Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion of Cottonwood Heights spoke about "People and Relationships" and how she enjoyed being a member of WSLC before she was elected to run for the Utah State Legislature House District 46 in 2020 and later resigned in Dec.2025.

Many U.S. citizens are concerned about Israel & U.S. agreement to attack Iran in an unprovoked war and without the U.S. Congressional approval or prior knowledge. There is debate about whether there is truth about Iran being an imminent danger to the U.S.

According to the Vatican News from March 1, 2026." Speaking at the Angelus on Sunday, Pope Leo XIV expressed "deep concern" over recent events in the Middle East and Iran. "Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue," he said. The Pope warned of an "immense tragedy if violence escalates out of control". "Faced with the possibility of a tragedy of enormous proportions," he said, "I address to the parties involved a heartfelt appeal to assume the moral responsibility to stop the spiral of violence before it becomes an irreparable abyss!"

May we continue to pray for the loss of all lives, especially civilians and children.
Please continue to pray for our military and political leaders to maintain peace instead of war.

EASTERN DEANERY
Becky Colombo, President
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Since the last AWARE issue, the members of the Eastern Deanery met and discussed plans for hosting the DCCW convention on April 18 and 19 in Salt Lake City at Little America Hotel. There were great ideas shared for convention bags, hostesses, helping in so many ways during the convention, and table favors. We are excited to host all of you at the 97th annual convention. We have some excellent suggestions from Reinette Shultz, last year's convention hostess chairperson. We certainly appreciate her help and suggestions as hostess duties are so important to everyone at the convention!

Our numbers of those attending from our parishes seems to be an increase from St. Anthony's and St James the Greater. We are hoping for a chance of winning one of the packages given to a lucky parish from the Throw Down Challenge. And a chance at winning the Lady of Good Council Award for miles they have traveled and number of ladies attending. Fingers crossed!

The Women of the Year will be honored at our next Deanery Meeting on April 12, 2026. The ladies of St. Helen's CCW will host the luncheon and business meeting in Roosevelt on that day. We will honor Mary Ghirardelli from St. Anthony's Parish (Helper), Missy Beltran from St. Helen's Parish (Roosevelt), and Cynthia Murray from St. James the Greater (Vernal). We are sorry that there was not a Woman of the Year chosen from Notre Dame de Lourdes in Price this year. These women are certainly deserving of this honor and will be attending the convention to receive their congratulations from Bishop Oscar Solis in April.

We will be installing new officers for the Deanery at the business meeting on April 12 in Roosevelt. At the time of this writing, the entire slate of officers will be newly selected, and the nominating committee is working diligently on finding the perfect replacements.

All the affiliates have been busy with service projects and preparing for Easter events in their parishes. They will be having their end of the year banquets in May and be on recess for the summer until everyone begins to meet again in September.

I have enjoyed serving as the president of the Eastern Deanery these two years. I know my replacement will be energetic and a good leader, whomever that may be! I look forward to assisting her in any way as she assumes the duties of president.

Respectfully submitted by
Becky Colombo,
President, Eastern Deanery Council of Catholic Women

NORTHERN DEANERY

Cleo Mota , President
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The ladies of Northern Deanery had been busy throughout the year. We are committed to improving ourselves and had kept true to our Deanery mission. Notable activities this year was our Service Project in collaboration with our sisters from The Latter-Day Saints where we donated stripped cloth made into balls and were sent to the women of Zimbabwe to help them with their livelihood. We also donated 300 care/hygiene bags to three local charitable institutions. Bags were sewn by the ladies making them more personal and with caring touch. To enhance our spiritual well-being, we attended the DCCW convention, numerous retreats, prayer services, and rallies offered by our parishes and other organizations. Each Affiliate and the Deanery continued to donate baskets to the Ladies of Charity fundraiser. A lot of our members are devoted and are constant help in the Carlos Acutis' activities. To boost our morale and for the first time, we held a ladies' fun activity with a theme "Girls Just Want to Have FUN"; and fun we had. The event started with a very meaningful message from our Spiritual Director. All attendees including our Spiritual Director and host's parish priest came dressed in the 80's. We held a "Best Dressed" contest and played games. It was a day filled with gratitude and laughter. We look forward to making a difference again this year. "A single smile is a teardrop erased; it's all worth it!"
Cleofe A. R. Mota

Holy Family

Judy Merlott, CCW President

Saint Mary Catholic Church, West Haven

by Margaret Sanchez, CCW President

Saint James the Just

Maria Devereaux, CCW President

Saint Rose of Lima

Monica Rich, CCW President

SALT LAKE DEANERY
Susan Vaughn, President
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The Salt Lake Deanery continues to stay exceptionally busy. The NCCW 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 continue to **collaborate** with the Knights of Columbus for the many activities. To name a few: Coffee and Donuts after mass, Spaghetti Dinners, food and clothing drives to benefit the community.

Services provided to parishes are demonstrated by serving as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, LEM's serving in leadership roles in CCW. The women lead the Rosary after the daily masses. The affiliates supported Youth Rallies, Retreats, Parish Centennial Celebrations, hosting receptions for seminarians Diaconate Ordination, helping to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus. Teaching in Faith Formation is a common trait. Social fundraising is an important activity, thus enabling the affiliates to donate to their parish and charities. We all continued prayers for our Pope, Bishops, Priest and Seminarians are at the top of our list.

Education remains important to all of the members. Book reviews, guest speakers at meetings, and attending State and National conventions help broaden the horizons for everyone participating. New ideas are brought back to the share with officers and members of their affiliate to enrich their membership. Participating in the Stations of the Cross, Passover Meals bring a deeper understanding of these spiritual practices.

Charitable projects are at the heart of the affiliates. The Carmelite nuns, St. Martha's Baby project, The Inn Between, The Veterans Hospital, Homeless Shelters, Food Pantries, students and parishioners are the recipients of a great deal of the proceeds of these women. Each parish receives financial support from the affiliates. Seminarians from the Salt Lake Dioceses also receive some financial support.

Fund Raisers are an ongoing project for the women. Grand socials with High Teas, dinners, fashion shows, lunches and breakfasts, Bunco games, Bingos, Wendover bus trips and opportunity drawings are favorites for these women. The members are never at a loss to find a way to stretch the dollar.

Again, it is impossible to list the accomplishments of these Blessed women. They remain dedicated to their church, Parish and faith. They are constantly on the lookout to make life better for someone else. They are mothers, leaders, teachers and sisters. It is truly an honor to work with such amazing women.

Susan Vaughn
Salt Lake Deanery President

SOUTHWESTERN DEANERY

Jennifer Enman, President

Christ the King, Cedar City

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The new year brings many changes for all of us, but especially with the Southwestern Deanery. Our wonderful President, Mary Skomal, has some health issues she has been contending with. Knowing her road to recovery will take some time, she has decided to step aside and let me take the reins. Mary is so grateful for all the love and prayers being sent her way, and I am very grateful to all the ladies who have welcomed me with such kindness and offered so much help! As the new year begins, there are so many things to look forward to.

Christ the King has been involved with our youth quite a bit helping with Operation Christmas Child and our Youth Retreat. The CCW had guest speakers from “Circles” at their last meeting. Circles is a community-based program that helps families break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. We hope to have some Circle leaders in Iron County in the future. The CCW will also be hosting a bereavement luncheon for our widows and widowers and those who have lost a loved one recently.

The St. George parish has been very busy as well! Their Christmas bake sale generated \$2400.00 in sales over one weekend. The CCW also distributed Smith’s grocery store gift cards for families in need during the holiday season. The Sunshine Committee attended several funerals including Ida Bittmenn the mother of the parish priest. They handed out prayer shawls to the bereaved family members. The Sunshine Committee also visited some assisted living facilities and gave out beautiful quilts donated by member Brenda Wey. The diaper/bottle drive they held took in over \$8000.00 and 6000 diapers! The funds will go to pro-life activities and the Well Pregnancy Resource Center. Lastly, at their February meeting they look forward to a guest speaker, the director of a Christian based maternity home that recently opened in St. George.

Both parishes look forward to Convention in April!

