



# NCCW Edition of the IMAGE

*From the President Doreen Hogan*

The National Council of Catholic Women held their 103rd convention. It was held at the Hyatt Regency Salt Lake City, Utah on August 24-26, 2023. Their theme: “Path of Renewed Encounter.”

Close to 500 women and Spiritual Advisors attended this convention. Around 50 women represented the Province of St Paul and Minneapolis. Our Province includes the states of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. The Archdiocese of St Paul and Minneapolis had 19 women attend.

I attend the convention to become inspired and re-energized. It is also a time to connect with old friends, meet new friends and gain valuable ideas.

Believe it or not, the week we were in Salt Lake City, the temperatures were cooler there than in Minnesota. The weather was beautiful.

The days were jammed packed with a variety of activities that included adoration, confessions, rosary, meditation, silent auction, purse auction, about 17 exhibitors, speakers, and daily Liturgy. The business part of the convention included Bylaws, Resolutions, and installation of officers.

Each of the three commissions, Spirituality, Leadership and Service held learning sessions. We also heard from the LTD (Learning Training and Development) and Education committees.

Thank you to the women who attending the convention and wrote articles and submitted photos about the various events they attended at Salt Lake City. Please enjoy this special Image edition!

If you have not had the opportunity to attend a National Council of Catholic Women convention, please consider attending the 2024 convention. It will be held August 15-17, 2024, at the Omni Hotel Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



# Salt Lake City Tour

Cathy Healy

We got on a vintage trolley with 2 period dressed women as guides. They had musical backgrounds and much of the history was sung to us. Each one would pose as the character important in the history timeline.

This territory was originally populated by a few tribes of Native Americans, mainly by the Shoshone. The Mormon Pioneers (known as The Church of Latter-day Saints) followed the path of the Donner Party through the mountains to Salt Lake where they settled in 1846. Thousands of Mormon Pioneers would follow. Brigham Young led them west after John Smith's death. After a harsh winter, their first crops were infested by crickets and "the miracle" happened where flocks of sea gulls flew in and ate the crickets. The Pioneers then started to flourish under a communal system. The layout of streets and buildings was due to Brigham Young's planning. The city streets are wide because he wanted to be able to turn his horse and carriage around in the road without having to go around blocks.

Change was inevitable. The world started to come to Salt Lake City in 1869 with the completion of the First Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit, north of the city. By 1870, Salt Lake had been linked to it via the Utah Central Rail Road. People began to pour into Salt Lake seeking opportunities in mining and other industries. Salt Lake City became a focal stop along the road for the gold rush to California. Some years later gold, silver and copper were also found in the mountains around the city. This created several rich mine owners who did not agree totally with the Mormon ways. There is a definite line drawn after the Mormon part of the city and the miners. So, there were many bars and houses of ill-reputed started. With mining flourishing the New York mobs and gangsters wanted a piece of the action for they invaded and formed their own strongholds.

The Latter-Day Saints practiced polygamy which became a national issue. So, President James Buchanan sent soldiers to replace Young in 1857. We passed by the Temple and Young's home. There is a cement beehive on the roof of his split home. In the beehive part of the home, he spent time with the wife of his choice and the remaining wives lived in a home next to it. Then when he wanted a different one. They exchanged homes. Utah is known as the Bee state.

Once Utah became a state, the capital was Salt Lake City. We toured the capital seeing the magnificent dome and insides. Utah was the 45th state. It was a territory before that and had given women the right to vote before the 19th amendment. The capital was the largest one in the U.S. But once Texas heard of this, they had to expand theirs so that it would be the largest one.

We also stopped at the cathedral and got to go inside. Wonderful stained glass.

The winter Olympics were held in Salt Lake in 2002. They are known for the best snow in the country. There are 5 national parks in the state. They will be hosting another Olympics.

*Hive rules:*

*Bee Yourself*

*Bee grateful*

*Bee kind.*



# Golden Rose and Our Lady of Good Counsel Luncheon

Kathy Zweber

What a great way to begin the 2023 NCCW Convention by honoring two women who embrace our NCCW Mission Statement by their “Faith in Action “.

The inspiring part of attending the Luncheon for the OLCG & GRA is seeing all the women attending and knowing that everyone who was nominated or attending are deserving of receiving this recognition for their actions and activities. I volunteered to be on the selection committee and served with other women who volunteered from all over the United States.

The recipients of the awards were selected by their Peers who recognize that these women have been growing spiritually through prayer, sharing, and spreading the Word of God. Training and helping develop women and youth into leaders the Church, in their community, and their families.

Recognition feels good. But it goes beyond just feeling good. Women who are actively appreciated, are happier than women who are not. They are more engaged and trust and promote the organization and stay active longer than those that are not recognized.

Seeing those that are recognized inspires others to keep on going because they are not alone and what they do does matter. If women do not reach out and serve others, they have failed to do what God has made them to do. Whether you receive an earthly award or not is not as meaningful as knowing that what you do pleases our God.

The speaker for this year’s Luncheon, was Donna Stoering, a Music Therapist, who shared how the Music can be Prayer and Prayer when sung is beautiful.

Service is a “Gift” and we need to use our gifts.

At the Luncheon she played and sang many songs, and one that spoke to me was the appropriate song of “Here I am Lord.” As she played and sang, I felt called to serve and do Gods work as I left the luncheon.

The final message was one of gratitude as we sang the last song she shared of “Now Thank We All Our God “and remembering that “Life is a journey.”

The selection committee was asked to close the luncheon by leading the final prayer.

More information on the 2023 Recipients of these awards, how to nominate women for the 2024 Award and can be found on the NCCW Website: [www.nccw.org](http://www.nccw.org)

The 2023 recipients will be featured in the next issue of the NCCW Catholic Woman Magazine. (One of the benefits of joining NCCW).

Final prayer with the  
selection committee



# Friends of NCCW for WUCWO

Debbie Keller

The Friends of NCCW for WUCWO annual General Membership meeting was held on Saturday, August 26 during the NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City. Following a Continental Breakfast, President Josephine Gilbert (Archdiocese of Miami) called the meeting to order and welcomed over 70 attendees and board members.

Fr. James Stembler, Spiritual Advisor (Diocese of Corpus Christi) led the opening prayer. Special guests were recognized including the NCCW Representative to WUCWO, Esohe Asemota of the Canadian Ladies Auxiliary of Peter Claver, current NCCW President Patricia Voorhes and past Presidents of NCCW and the Friends of NCCW for WUCWO.

President Gilbert reported that the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisation (WUCWO) held its General Assembly in Assisi May 14-20, with a private audience with Pope Francis in Rome on May 13th. All who visited the Vatican had opportunity to view visual display panels of the Women Cry, exhibit, which cited hardships and challenges faced by women throughout the world. Of the 832 participants at the General Assembly in Assisi, 39 were from the United States, with a total of 67 countries represented.

The Central theme was "WUCWO Women, Artisans of Human Fraternity for World Peace." During the 5 days of meetings, Resolutions were debated, discussed and adopted, and a new President General was elected for a 4-year term, Monica Santamarina of Mexico.

Here is a synopsis of the Six Resolutions (taken from wucwo.org in English vernacular):

- World Women's Observatory – A focus on seeking and lending visibility to the suffering and potential of women, especially the vulnerable, to promote actions in favour of their integral development, their families and their communities.
- Defence of Religious Freedom – As a fundamental human right, participating organisations pledge to work for non-discrimination, to denounce violations of religious freedom and to promote interfaith interaction.
- Global Food Crisis – Related to the care of our planet, in light of the encyclical *Laudato si'*, women of WUCWO pledge to respond to the urgent call to address environmental and climate issues, by recycling, reducing individual pollution and promoting ecological conversion.
- Family Love – All member organisations are called to the accompaniment and formation of young people and couples, recognizing motherhood and fatherhood as paths to holiness.
- Migrants and Refugees – In response to Pope Francis' call to build a future as active instruments of concrete proximity, special attention will be given to the problem of forced migration and discrimination in the labour market, which often affects mainly women.
- Building & Decision-making Processes in the Church – WUCWO wishes to promote the formation of women so they can participate responsibly in Church processes, by fostering women's leadership in the pursuit of the common good through spiritual, intellectual and pastoral formation.

Further business conducted at the General Membership meeting included adoption of the 2023-24 budget, approval of bylaw and standing rule changes, reports from committees and election of new officers and board members. President Gilbert presented Fr. James Stembler with a gift for his six years of service and introduced Fr. Thomas Lux (Lincoln Diocese) as the next Spiritual Advisor for the Friends' organization. Each attendee was then gifted a photo booklet of the Women Cry display.

# Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy

Annemarie Chlebeck

Krisanne Vaillancourt Murphy was the speaker at the Opening General Session of the convention. She is the Executive Director of Catholic Mobilizing Network. Her title was: From Woundedness to Healing: Restorative Approaches to Harm. The Catholic Mobilizing Network is working to bring an end to the use of the death penalty, to transform the US criminal justice system from punitive to restorative. We must recognize our woundedness, our throwaway culture, our culture of indifference, and the reality of the influence of evil. The most recent Popes have had lots to say about the death penalty, most recently that it is “morally inadmissible,” that it is an attack on the inviolability of the dignity of human life.

We must be peacemakers, according to Krisanne. There must be proactive reconciliation. This involves truth-telling, resisting revenge, and a real understanding of forgiveness. Forgiveness is not letting wrongdoing continue or ignoring past harms, nor is it a sign of weakness, nor can it be demanded. Forgiveness is possible and even transformative and enables the pursuit of true justice. People desiring and clinging to revenge are acting contrary to our prolife witness. In the past, traditional justice asked what is the crime, who is guilty, what the punishment should be. Restorative justice asks what was the harm done, who was impacted, what can be done to make it right. Statistics in our country are pretty shocking: 2400 on death row, 27 states still have the death penalty, 3 currently have a moratorium on the death penalty. There are opportunities to be involved: [catholicmobilizing.org/online](http://catholicmobilizing.org/online).

Restorative justice leads to every person being treated with dignity, the opportunity to transform hurt and suffering, and gives the opportunity for redemption and wholeness.



L to R: Cathy Healy, Jane Rosner, Kathy Zweber, Mickey Nickelson and Annemarie Chlebeck

# Leadership Commission - Liz Schlavone

Colleen Hogan

I attended the NCCW Leadership Commission Session, their theme was about Voting and the importance of voting within our organization. They were given the task by NCCW to increase voting. Women's right to vote became the 19th Amendment on August 19, 1920, 103 years ago. The first state was Wisconsin and the last state was Tennessee. When women were fighting for voting right, the NCCW was being formed.

Why Vote?

Women fought hard to be given the RIGHT to vote. It's important. Our organization depends on it and the future relies on all of us to vote. We all have a voice and our voices needs to be heard. We are all stronger together when we vote.

They interviewed two Past NCCW Presidents – Joan McGrath & Joann Hillebrand.

Some advice they shared are as follow:

“Mentoring is what we all need to do” – Joann Hillebrand

“I sit up front because I paid for that seat”. God gave you gifts it's your responsibility to use them. – Joan McGrath

Advice for the Future:

Our organization relies on all of our Catholic Woman. Your gifts need to be recognized. In order to keep it going, we need to support them. Our world is changing, we have to be willing to change. We need to bring in new ideas & new people in order to thrive. We need to think of ways to attract new women. As far as voting we need be informed, read up on the candidate and vote for the person you think will do the right thing. When you cast your vote, it makes you an owner.

“Your VOTE Matters”!

L to R: Cathy Healy, Joan McGrath, Carol Shukle



NCCW Head Table



# Province Banquet

Gina Haaland

I was able to attend the National Convention in Salt Lake City. 15 years ago I went with my mother, Denise Haaland for a General Assembly.

It was great to be with the women of Minnesota and a few Spiritual Advisors from Minnesota. There was around forty women who attended from Minnesota.

We had a wonderful dinner, you had a choice of herb roasted salmon or chicken. We gathered to play a game led by Lucy Johnson and Connie Andrews. I hear this is a standard for the evening .

I was lucky to be on the table with ladies who knew Latin as some of the questions were in relation. Annemarie Chlebeck was a whiz on those answers and got us many points.

We gave recognition to our out going Parliamentarian, Pat Reymann and the incoming Province Director Carol Shukle. Both from this Archdiocese.



Women from Province

# We teach think

Doreen Hogan

Angela Copenhaver Founder and Executive Director of “We Teach Think.”

We Teach Think is a non-profit marketing company that focuses on educating the public on the value of Human Life at all stages of development: both Born and Preborn. They design, produce, and distribute educational digital marketing, television commercials, video, and billboards. Our marketing is designed to move the topic of intentionally ending Preborn Human Life from socially acceptable to socially unacceptable.

They have designed a website to be a place for you to explore and learn about Human Development and an exciting new way to communicate a message of Human respect at all stages of life. They exist to encourage factual sharing of information to positively impact public perception of what it means to be human and instill a desire of the public to protect Human Life.

“We Teach Think” is marketing that can change a culture. Their first project is their site called: [humanfromdayone.com](http://humanfromdayone.com)

Their messages and videos are powerful. Just imagine if you were asked the following questions by your own child or grandchild? How would you reply?

“Why do we protect whales?”

“Why are snow leopards protected?”

“Why is it important to protect sea turtles?”

“Why do we protect bald eagle eggs?”

“Why don’t we protect all humans?”

“When the next generation asks you why, how will you explain Liberty and Justice for all?”

Take time to explore their videos and learn about their mission. You can also read their newsletter to learn more about Angela Copenhaver and her background.

[www.weteachthink.com](http://www.weteachthink.com)





# Breakfast Panel

Teresa Droessler

## Our Encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist

Julie Boerio-Goates, originally from the “Fred Rogers neighborhood” in southwest Pennsylvania, is a BYU chemistry professor with 2 children and 3 grandchildren. Julie spoke primarily about sharing the faith. She told the story of St. Francis of Assisi going behind the Crusade battlefield lines to find the Muslim Sultan and share the Christian faith. The Sultan was not converted, but the meeting had a profound influence on both men. Julie said the message is to “Share the faith, but don’t attack or debate the beliefs of others.” If you understand the other person’s faith, you can better frame your own. When her LDS (Mormon) boyfriend, whom she later married, told her, “As man is, God once was” (i.e., God had a physical body at one time), Julie knew she didn’t believe this, so what did she really believe?

When her son was in the BYU Concert Choir, the choir gave a concert in Holy Week at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. She was asked to speak to the choir about the church details and the Catholic faith. So she spoke about the Trinity (not created), the Incarnation, the sacramental nature of the Church, the Pascal Mystery and the liturgies of Easter. As Catholics lighten the darkness with candles at the Easter Vigil, the choir asked if they could use candlelight for their concert. This experience had a great impact on both the choir and the attendees. Julie also quoted St. Justin Martyr: “The Eucharist is the Incarnation continued on earth until the end of time.”

Susan Northway taught music and is now in the SLC Diocesan Office of Faith Formation. She has grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. She spoke of remembrances of graces. Memory is our gift from God. She told of attending a mainly Jewish high school in Skokie, Illinois. Gilbert Gordon, father of her girlfriend Julie, took on a court case to challenge covenants that prevented Jews and Blacks from purchasing homes in the area. Gordon was accused of being a Communist, so the family moved to Denver for a few years until the McCarthy era ended.

Another vivid memory was when she was teaching in a small town and leading school children dancing in the park. A woman in an ankle-length dress, with hair in a severe bun, told her, “Some of us don’t dance.” Susan thought these United Brethren Church women were pretty inflexible. Later, when she was helping with scoliosis screening, these same women came in and showed her scars of abuse on a little girl’s back. Then Julie thought these women were saints.



# Breakfast Panel continued

The third memory was when she interviewed for a job at Woodward Hospital School, a residential home in Iowa for people with epilepsy. She was shocked by the frailties she saw on tour – infants to elderly. The sunlight was shining in on a young girl with encephalitis. Her head was so swollen that she couldn't sit up by herself. She smiled and said, "Hi! My name is Debbie!" Susan was hooked.

When we bring up the gifts at the Eucharist, we keep the memory of what Jesus has done and graces received. In the Eucharist, dare to remember who we are, so we can forget the past and step out in freedom to live in the future.

Kimberly Tosti has an MS in social psychology and a passionate 4-year-old son. Kim stated that paradigms can blind us, especially when around our insecurities. It takes a life-changing event to change our long-held paradigms. "When God leads me, I go kicking and screaming, and yet I find great growth." The COVID separation was particularly acute. Her son Aiden was 6 months old, there was an earthquake, no community support in a new place, and she sang in a plexiglass box to a very small Mass group. She thought, "Was the strength of my faith dependent on the 'trappings' of liturgy? Did I need the dopamine hit of being needed?" Kim realized that all the trappings were shielding her from personal encounter with the Triune God.

The bishops "wisely introduced a 3-year program of Eucharistic revival." Kim chaired the planning committee for Utah's Diocesan Eucharistic Rally held in July. The vision was to create space for community. Ten thousand Catholics attended! There were speakers, a teen area, Mass, a "cathedral look" with "stained glass" windows and banners from all parishes. At a thank-you event afterward for 300 volunteers, there were many stories of encounters, paths opened, and personal awakening. The next phase is at the parish level, trying to give every member a chance to encounter Jesus at the table and to make meaningful connections.

Paradigm shifts aren't "one and done." Look outside of the people who are easy to serve. Find a way to reach out to those who still feel "stuck" after COVID. Let's be architects of micro-miracles through connection and compassion.



This was the candy that the firm originally started with and carried fame being from the city of the Great Salt Lake. Looking for a unique brand name to identify its candy, he decided to change the name of the company to Taffy Town, Inc., recognizing that Salt Lake City is a town famous for its taffy.

Though it was invented in the 1880's in Atlantic City

# Purse Vocation Club Auction

Colleen Hogan

Inspired by the church's calls to holiness, many young people have found themselves drawn to religious life. Yet, with the average inquirer to religious life owing \$33,000 in student loans and hampered by the costs of insurance and housing among other major expenses, many religious communities have found it necessary to turn promising candidates away until they are debt free—a process that can take years. To address this problem the National Council of Catholic Women established the VOCATION PURSE CLUB in 2016. The NCCW's Vocation Purse Club helps support the needs of women discerning a religious vocation as a Catholic sister, nun, or member of a secular institute, including assisting the Vocation Fund in eliminating the obstacle of student debt.

One of the most exciting sessions people look forward to is the NCCW Purse Auction. All proceeds from this event goes towards the NCCW Vocation Purse Club. All purses are donated by Province Directors & Executive Committees. Father Miguel Gonzalez is the auctioneer for the event and makes it a can't miss and energy packed event. If you have never been to it before I highly recommend it. This year there were over 30 purses donated. Each purse is auctioned off and has special gifts inside of them. The prices of the auctioned purses ranged from \$300 - \$2000. Our Archdiocese of St Paul/Minneapolis brought home 9 purses (Denise Haaland, Cathy Healy, Mary Lou Wilharber, Marsha Pullman & Colleen Hogan). They raised over \$20,000; this is a record and the most they have ever made. I cannot wait for next year's Purse Auction and hope to see you there in Oklahoma!



The famous purse auction with Father Miguel



L to R: Doreen Hogan,  
Colleen Hogan, Marsha  
Pullman, Mary Lou  
Wilharber, Cathy Healy and  
Denise Haaland

# Business Meeting

Lucy Johnson

The Business Meeting for the NCCW Convention was held on Friday, August 25, 2023. After the opening ceremonies, the Credential Report, Standing Rules, and Agenda were approved. Reports were given and tellers appointed. Normally, bylaws are presented in one year and resolutions in another. Although this year was a bylaws year, there was one resolution presented. In addition, an emergency/timely bylaws amendment was presented. This needed the approval of 4/5 of the registered delegates' approval to pass. Amendments were proposed and debate occurred on the motions.

In the end, the three bylaws amendments passed as presented. One of the amendments was regarding NCCW and its membership in the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (WUCWO). One addressed the yearly programs of the NCCW Commission. The last amendment concerned the role of the Executive Director.

The resolution entitled Belief in the Real Presence was also approved. The purpose of this resolution is to foster belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

The participation of the membership in the Business Meeting continues to be a viable way for women's voices to be heard.



# Leadership Commission - Susie Harting

Denise Haaland

"Back to School...Never stop Learning"

The team brought back school in the theme of the workshop. Mrs. Harting gave the assignment of book reports and the four classes they worked on were math, history, physical education, and science.

Math was crunching the numbers for membership. Invite the ladies, personal invites are the best and get results. Plant the seed in church and watch for some one you may want to invite and to get active in the CCW. Age is not a big reason to ask but all ages are welcomed.

History had a video of some seasoned members who headed the LTD team and told of the past action of LTD. You have to know where you have been before moving ahead.

PE was of the teambuilding mindset. Mentoring, helping in life things they are in at the present. It challenges us to get out there and ask people to see what we are about. Run the race.

Science tells of the catalyst, something to make a change with. The same old may not cut it.

Experiment on new creative thinking.

Imagination and let new things happen and they may work this time.

Two of the members of the LTD team are now officers of NCCW. Susan Harting who was the head of LTD is now our Secretary for national and Amy Kennedy is the President Elect. So Mary Rowley is the chair of LTD and will do an excellent job. I have worked with her and she has wonderful and prayerful insight.



Susie Harting

# Spirituality Commission - Kim Padan

Mickey Nickelson

Our Archbishop is asking all of us to engage in the Synod and be part of a small group. At the same time we are asked to participate in the Eucharistic Revival. When we first look at these requests we might remark, "I cannot do both."

The National Catholic Council of Catholic Women's Spiritually Commission has provided reflections and meditations of the Liturgy of the Eucharist through a journal for you or a small group to you to use personally, as well as, with a small group. The collection is available to members on the NCCW website (another reason to become a member).

The Spirituality Commission also offered quotes to spark prayer, discussion, and devotion.

From Sacred Scripture

John 6:53-57

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

1 Corinthians 10:16

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

From Saint Augustine

"Recognizing in the bread what hung on the cross and in the chalice what flowed from His side.

From the Catholic Catechism

CCC 1327

CCC 1344

From Saint John Paul II

"The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the world....Let Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament speak to our hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us; He is God with us. Seek him without tiring; welcome him without reserve; love him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever!"

The Synod is the time to deeper your relationship with Jesus, grow with others and share with others. The Eucharistic revival will help do just that.



Kim Padan

# Tour of Cathedral of the Madeleine

Mary Lou Wilharber

On Tuesday, the day before this year's NCCW Convention began, there was a walking tour planned at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. So, at 5 pm 125 women and a few men boarded the busses and headed for the Cathedral.

We were welcomed to the Cathedral by the local Deacon who explained this was the only cathedral in the United States dedicated to Saint Mary Magdelene. As he began the tour outside, he explained that originally the Cathedral was constructed of Kyune sandstone, which is primarily Romanesque in style. The sandstone blocks were replaced with blocks made of precast stone during an exterior renovation between 1975-1980. At the same time, the slate roof was replaced with a copper one. The Tympanum above the entry doors was designed and constructed by Francis Aretz of Pittsburgh PA, the tympanum features the figure of Christ the Great High Priest, flanked by an angel and the twelve apostles on each side. Also appearing in the upper half of the work are the four great Latin Doctors of the Church, Saints Gregory the Great, Jerome, Augustine, and Ambrose. The symbols of the four evangelist, Matthew (winged man), Mark (lion,) Luke (ox), and John (eagle) appear surrounding the arms of the cross.

He explained that over the years many things needed to be restored, making the Cathedral a beautiful structure that would last a long time. The exterior of the Cathedral was primarily Romanesque in style. The sandstone blocks were replaced with the original construction, the stained-glass windows were the dominant visual element of the Cathedral.

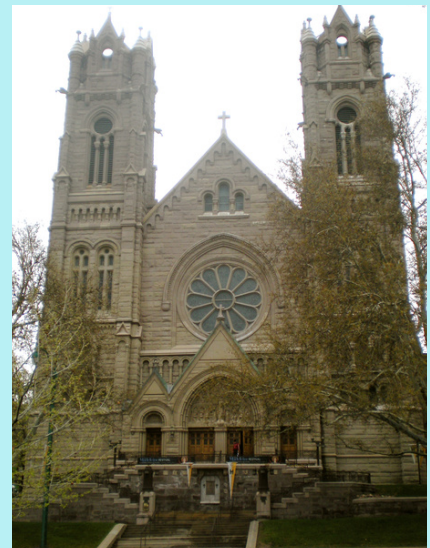
The eight original sandstone gargoyles that were placed on the Cathedral in 1917 deteriorated due to weather and were removed in the 1930s. In the 1975 exterior restoration, new steel-reinforced gargoyles, weighing 1,200 pounds each, were placed on the towers. Each represents a petrified combination of a bird, a cat, and a dog. They serve decorative purposes only. The two original Cathedral Bells, Joseph, and Mary were cast by the Maryland Brass Foundry in 1917 and weigh 2,650 and 1,300 pounds. Two new bells installed by the Verdin Company in Cincinnati, OH in 1993 are named Cecelia and Michael. The bells are rung and pealed to announce liturgical services and celebrate joyous occasions or are told to call the faithful to prayer.

Initial construction began in 1899 on property purchased by Lawrence J. Scanlan, the first Bishop of Salt Lake City. Saint Mary's Cathedral, the original name, was dedicated on August 15, 1909.

In the original construction, the stained-glass windows were the dominant visual element of the Cathedral. Bishop Scanlan designed the windows to tell the story of Christ's life through the Mysteries of the Rosary. After his death, the second Bishop of Salt Lake City, inspired by the Gothic art of the Middle Ages, reconstructed the art and furnishings of the interior replacing the stained-glass windows in the sanctuary with the colorful murals and adding dramatic coloration and ornate wood carvings throughout the buildings.

Between 1991 – 1993, the Cathedral was completely restored under the leadership of William K. Weigand, seventh Bishop of Salt Lake City. In addition, the altar and baptismal font were repositioned to conform with the norms of the Second Vatican Council.

Cathedral of the Madeline



# Madeleine Cathedral continued

Over the years there have been many updates and changes to the Cathedral. The Stations of the Cross were updated in 1992 and 1993 by a Utah artist and replaced the original set that had deteriorated. They generally follow a revised version of the stations produced by the Vatican in 1975. The stained-glass windows originally designed by the House of Lettler, Royal Bavarian Institute, Munich Germany, and installed in 1908, the windows were completely rebuilt in 1992.

The Altar, the central element of the Cathedral, stands on a chancel (marble floor) at the crossing of the transept and nave, marking it as the center and heart of the Cathedral. The altar contains relics of St. Gratus, Bishop of Aosta, Piedmont, Italy who died in 457 and St. Fenusta and early Christian martyr.

There was time to walk around and look at the first-degree relic of St. Mary Magdalene. This was bone fragments that were woven into an embroidery of a fleur-de-lis. In this special area behind the tabernacle was another relic of a splinter of wood from the cross of Christ was crucified on. The Stations of the Cross were painted by Utah artist Roger (Sam) Wilson in 1992 and 1993. They combine elements of traditional iconography, Renaissance painting, cubism, and American Southwestern coloration within postmodern style. This very insightful tour was followed by a beautiful Eucharistic Adoration. The bishop of the Cathedral was in attendance and led the prayers and singing at the end of Adoration. He also presided over every Mass that was celebrated during this Convention. This was very inspiring and all who attended were in awe of the Cathedral. The history and the renovations are very beautiful and very memorable. The highlight was seeing the relic of St. Mary Magdalene and the relic from of the cross that Christ was crucified on.





# Liturgy for Deceased Members

Carol Shukle

One of the joys of the NCCW national convention is beautiful Masses celebrated each day by the Bishops and priests in attendance. Mass on Friday, Aug 25, was said for the deceased members of the Council of Catholic Women. The chief celebrant and homilist was The Most Reverend William A Wack, CSC, the Bishop of Pensacola Tallahassee and the NCCW Episcopal Liaison to United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). (NCCW was founded in 1920 at the request of the USCCB to unite Catholic women's organizations. NCCW sends a representative to the USCCB and Bishop Wack is the Bishop's representative to our organization.)

The processional included the nearly 20 priests in attendance who are spiritual advisors to CCW diocesan organizations around the country. Bishop Wack was joined on the altar by Fr. Miguel Gonzales, the chair of the Spiritual Advisors.

Bishop Wack based his sermon on the Old Testament reading for that day, the story of Ruth. It's always inspirational to hear the voices of hundreds of Catholic women raised in song during the Mass.

The intention for the Mass that day, the deceased members of CCW, struck a special chord with me. I had just learned after arriving in Salt Lake City of the death of a long-time, dedicated member of my own parish CCW. I raised her up in prayer that day. I have been involved in CCW long enough that the stalwart members who mentored me when I was new have started to pass on. I thought of many special members of our parish CCW who are no longer with us and I'm sure each of you also can bring many of those past members to mind.

In addition, with nearly 30 years since I first came on the ACCW Board, I was remembering past dear ACCW board members many of you will recognize – Muriel Failor, Maureen Willenbring, Millie Peddycoart, Mary Helen Swartzler, Kay O'Keefe, Ellie Suchy, Lois Tracy, and Mary Alice Hargarten to name just a few. And who could forget Millie Wall of St. Charles Borromeo who was the Minnesota Vikings superfan from the 1917-18 season and served her parish well past her hundredth birthday? May God grant them eternal rest.

View from Salt Lake  
City hotel room



# Fundraiser

Jane Rosner

The theme for the NCCW Convention this year was 'Path of Renewed Encounter.' On Friday evening we were entertained by the Madeleine School Choir and we were not disappointed! The choir was composed of 6 to 8 grade school boys and girls. What had started out back in 1996 as an open group of after school students (trying to keep them busy) ended up today with 7 choirs. The choristers assist with the worship life of the Cathedral of the Madeleine, serving over 9,000 hours every year. The Madeleine Choir School. Past tours have encompassed performances in London, Paris, Madrid, Rome, Vienna, Prague, and Berlin, including Westminster Cathedral, Notre Dame de Paris and St. Peter's Basilica.



Madeleine Choir

The convention had six days of great liturgies, speakers and of course renewing friends from past conventions and meeting new ones!

# Liturgies

The liturgies were a beautiful way to start or end the convention day.

The Welcome Liturgy was Wednesday, August 23 and the celebrant was Reverend Fred Jenga, who is the President of Holy Cross Family Ministries.

The Opening Liturgy was on Thursday, August 24 and the celebrant was The Most Reverend Oscar A Solis who is the Bishop of Salt Lake City.

Friday, August 25 the Liturgy was for deceased members with The Most Reverend William A. Wack presiding. He is the NCCW Episcopal Liaison to the USCCB and Bishop of Pensacola-Tallahassee

The Closing Liturgy was on the final day, Saturday, August 26 and the celebrant was The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for Military Serves, USA and President of the USCCB.

On another note, The Salt Lake City CCW women were very quick and often to tell us that, Catholicism is the 2nd most popular religion in Utah with a percentage of 10%!

## Hyatt Food Review

Jo Hogan

Hyatt Regency Hotel provided excellent service and great food options. A continental breakfast on Wednesday morning was new to this year's convention line up. This included a nice variety of muffins and bagels served with cream cheese and honey butter. A carrot muffin was there for a gluten free option.

Thursday morning, we were treated to a huge breakfast platter that included scrambled eggs, potatoes, and bacon with croissants. The portion size was so big that many women could not finish it all. This may have led to some bacon sharing among our table. 😊

Convention attendees had the option to purchase grab and go lunches on Thursday and Friday. The hotel included a deli/coffee shop/gift shop. The Market Place had many options including healthy and vegan options. The Market Place employees provided great service.

Province Dinner was held Thursday evening. Our banquet meal included salad, entrée, rolls, and dessert. As with our breakfast meal, the portion size was generous and very filling. This food critic was very pleased with this convention food and service!

# NCCW Board Meeting

## Carol Shukle

The 2021-23 Board of the National Council of Catholic Women met for the last time on Wednesday morning, August 23 at the NCCW Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. After introductions, which included incoming Province Directors who attended as observers, the board heard reports from officers and committee heads including President Pat Voorhees serving her final days in office.

The main item of business was several emergency bylaw revisions that needed to be introduced and voted on at the convention. Earlier in the summer NCCW had announced the resignation of the executive director who left for another position. A cost saving and staff streamlining measure to instead have an office manager at the NCCW office in Arlington, VA was announced at the meeting. The emergency revisions dealt with the portions of the bylaws that mentioned the position of Executive Director.

The convention closed with the first meeting of the 2023-25 NCCW Board of directors. Taking seats on the board for the first time were ACCW members Lucy Johnson as Parliamentarian, Debbie Keller as Spirituality Commission Chair and Carol Shukle as the Province Director for the Province of St Paul and Minneapolis which includes Minnesota and North and South Dakota.

New NCCW president Beth Mahoney kept the meeting brief and focused on spirituality. She announced a few dates including a Zoom NCCW board training and her guide for the Board the next two years – the life of St. Clare of Assisi. She turned the meeting over to Rev. Thomas Washburn who compared the current times for the Church to another era of difficulty in the 13th century that led to the Fourth Lateran Council and its reforms and produced great Saints like Francis and Clare of Assisi. He called on all us to be the saints of the church today.



Beth Mahoney  
NCCW President  
2023-2025



Carol Shukle  
SPM Province Director  
2023-2025



Lucy Johnson  
NCCW Parliamentarian  
2023-2025



Debbie Keller  
NCCW Spirituality Chair  
2023-2025

*Congratulations*

# 45 and Under Gathering

Jo Hogan

NCCW sets aside a time for anyone 45 and under to meet and network. This half-hour session included 11 people from Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Florida, Atlanta, Utah, and Minnesota. This group was able to discuss topics like how to break “we’ve done this before?”, “how do we get new women involved?” and “what do they get from their religion?” This session grew from 6 attendees at the 2022 NCCW Convention in Minneapolis to 11 attendees at Salt Lake City.



## Service Commission - Yvonne Pygatt

Jo Hogan

The Service Commission started their session with three skits. Each skit spotlighted a different scenario dealing with an unplanned pregnancy. During the skit they explained how they could assist or help with each situation. All three of these skits were great examples of the NCCW program, Walking with Moms in Need.

During the session, they shared suggestions for your community or dioceses to start your own Walking with Moms in need program. They warned that it takes more than diaper drives and supplying clothes for the expecting moms. Expecting parents and new parents need those resources but they also need resources such as mental, financial, and spiritual guidance. Another important thing to remember is a program like this takes a lot of volunteers.

Most importantly, continue to walk along side with the parents. Continue to check in with them while they are going through all stages of parenthood, prebirth, birth and after the birth of the child. This check-in may sound simple, but a little step like this helps parents feel supported.

The Service Commission and convention attendees gave suggestions for fundraisers or how your parish can help. Some of their ideas were a Baby Bottle fundraiser, fill with your loose change or donuts for diapers. Your parish could also work with your local food shelf by doing a adopt a diaper size. This will enable your food shelf to have all the diaper sizes needed, not just the small sizes.

Most of all, pray for your community to be there for all expecting parents and be there for Walking with Moms in need.

# An Interview with Parliamentarian

## Pat Reymann

Lucy Johnson

There is a joke among parliamentarians that goes something like this: “How can you tell if a parliamentarian is doing her job?” Answer: After the meeting, an attendee says, “That meeting was so well-run, we didn’t even need the parliamentarian”. (groan)

Most of the parliamentarian’s work is done behind the scenes before the meeting is even called to Order. For over 22 years, Minnesota’s own Professional Registered Parliamentarian Patricia Reymann has fulfilled this role for the NCCW. In honor of her many years of service, I had the privilege of asking Pat some questions.

Lucy: Who would you say mentored you?

Pat: Two mentors come to mind - Lois Tracy and Muriel Miller. Lois served as parliamentarian for the second year of my term as ACCW President. She coached me during that time and then invited me to join her and others that I knew in the St. Paul Unit. There I reconnected with Muriel Miller who was a great teacher and role model for parliamentarians all over the state. I had first met Muriel when she was parliamentarian for St. Paul Deanery in the 1980s; my terms on the Deanery Board were my introduction to parliamentary procedure, which I had not heard of before.

Lucy: Pat, you became the NCCW Parliamentarian in 2001. Who asked you, and how did she “find” you?

Pat: The NCCW President Barbara Garavalia asked me. Barbara had seen a video that I submitted earlier to become a leadership trainer in which my topic for the 10 minutes was parliamentary procedure. [My audience was a few of my CCW friends.]

Lucy: Why did you say “yes”?

Pat: I was a newly minted PRP and was offered the perfect job! I became a PRP at the end of 2001, following the Qualifying Course that was held in Alexandria VA [near DC] starting on 9/11. It was an unforgettable time to be there and a challenging time to try to learn something!

Lucy: How many NCCW Presidents did you serve?

Pat: 11.

Lucy: What has changed the most over the years?

Pat: There were changes made to save NCCW from financial difficulties by cutting the number of VPs we had and by eliminating many of the reimbursements for travel, etc. For me, it meant that I no longer attended the 2 Board Meetings in DC and I paid my own way to conventions. This began the election of Presidents-Elect instead of Vice Presidents - by all members, instead of just those who attended convention - and the strengthening of the roles of the Board and Executive Committee. For a time, the Board had sole control over the bylaws.

# Parliamentarian Interview continued

Lucy: What are your favorite memories? Any one year stands out?

Pat: I remember a convention during Ellen Bachman's term when there was a lot of debate on a bylaw amendment. I stood next to her to help her figure out who should be recognized next, and we started giggling. We got the job done and it lightened the mood for everyone in the room, I think. (And Ellen remains one of my best friends.) Another highlight was the report I made to the convention that the bylaws were back in the control of the convention. It was preceded by a drum roll and concluded with applause!

Lucy: What were your Worst Nightmares? Any one year stands out?

Pat: The year that I was given incorrect information and tasked to give a speech to convince the convention to turn the control of the bylaws over to the Board. That's why the second half of the above answer felt so good.

Lucy: What is the secret to your longevity with this organization?

Pat: Supply and demand. There are very few PRPs with Council experience, so we are a hot commodity! It helps that I have an education background and can explain complex rules and procedures. [And, not to brag, have you read my booklet, "Ask the Parliamentarian?"]

Lucy: What will you miss the most?

Pat: Helping the President, Board, and women in the pew who have simple questions or complex issues to deal with. The behind-the-scenes stuff can be fascinating and rewarding. Also, I enjoy writing about parliamentary procedure so I will miss doing that.

On behalf of all the women of ACCW and NCCW, thank you Pat for your mentorship and service. You have touched many lives, and we are grateful for you.

\*\*The Muriel Miller Memorial Workshop will be held on October 21, 2023. All are invited to attend this basic parliamentary procedure workshop.

For more information contact - [lucyhjohnson@msn.com](mailto:lucyhjohnson@msn.com)



# THANK YOU PAT!

# Closing Banquet

Debbie Keller

This year's NCCW Convention's theme "Path of Renewed Encounter" took on new meaning for Saturday evening's banquet entertainment. At the final hour, the originally scheduled performance group had to cancel. So the Salt Lake City Diocesan Council of Catholic Women spurred into quick action, seeking help from their Bishop Oscar Solis and NCCW Spiritual Advisor Fr. Miguel Gonzales, both known for their musical talents and quick wit. In addition to them being part of this unexpected variety show, talented Diocesan priests stepped up, all delighting the audience with their charm, cultural music and side-splitting humor. Our own Minnesota guitarist Jeanette Fortier, put the icing on the cake, concluding the evening with her Catholic humor singalong. It will be a Path of Renewed (and highly entertaining) Encounter we will long remember!!



*We hope you will join us on August 15-17, 2024  
For the 104th NCCW Convention*

*Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC  WOMEN<sup>®</sup>