

**DCCW LEADERSHIP COMMISSION REPORT
2015-2016**



What qualities create a leader? Max Dupree has an encompassing answer, *"The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality. The last is to say thank you. In between the leader is a servant."*

Defining reality comes under the realm of educating oneself and in turn others to the issues that define our group, our interaction in the community and the world. A large contingency of Council sisters in September, attended the NCCW Convention in Orlando. Our ladies participated in "Catholic Days at the Capital", and in January a few of our members participated in the "March for Respect Life", in Washington D.C. The Orlando DCCW's Leadership Symposium at Lake Yale has been another education opportunity our ladies have attended. Our women have utilized the NCCW Website and Conference calls. Our DCCW website and newsletter, Pencil Points, are another avenue to teach, educate and inform.

Our membership has been in fluctuation. This year our membership has seen an increase. In part this is due to the reactivation of East Central Deanery. But we are still struggling to hold on to some parish affiliations. The membership is aging and we are all trying to bring our message to younger women. We accomplish this through invitations to participate in days of prayer and reflection, programs that have vibrant speakers on issues important to women, mothers and growing families. And finally, social events, as opportunities to extend hospitality fellowship and fun. The best promotion is always the personal invitation. We have increased our use of social media and the printed word to keep everyone informed. Publicity, is important to promoting the Council of Catholic Women.

Finally, we need to applaud the women who have served on Boards and Commissions. They have given up time and treasure to promote Council and keep its focus on issues vibrant, current and welcoming. Our women multi task serving their church and communities. And when their term is over, they become mentors to the new leaders.

In closing, the Council of Catholic Women of Pensacola –Tallahassee DCCW, members of the National Council of Catholic Women have accepted the challenge of becoming wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church.

Carol Giguere