

President's Annual Report

April 2016

As I sit to write the last report as your president, I find myself smiling. Smiling because of all the wonderful memories I take with me of meetings, conventions and mostly the great friendships I now have with fellow Sisters in Council.

My president's report for our first board meeting ended with *our journey begins...*and it sure did. The past two years included many *first* for me, conducting my first DCCW board meeting, attending my first Burse Club luncheon and FCCW board meeting, attending a Chrism Mass and planning a convention- oh what fun- to name a few. At the first meeting we set goals for the next two years and have accomplished some and others are works in progress.

Our **spirituality** goal always includes helping each other to a deeper understanding and love of our faith and last year we focused on evangelization. This year we continue in the pursuit of our goal as we join with the Diocesan vision of a Church Fully Alive in the Spirit.

Ladies you amaze me especially when it comes to **service**. The NCCW service program "Caps for Love" was a huge success with mounds of plastic caps collected and transported to a collection center to provide wheelchairs to the needy. The FCCW program "Hugs for the Homeless" collection across the diocese yielded close to \$6,000 to help the less fortunate living in Florida and our local areas. The amount of money, food, clothing, and other specialty items collected and donated to local charities are too numerous to list. We are called to serve and you answered many calls.

No annual report addressing service would be complete without mentioning the Burse Club. We all look forward to the presentation of the "check" to Bishop Parkes that represents the funds collected throughout our diocese for the support of the seminarians – our future priest. The Jubilee Mass and the Rite of Elections receptions were lovely again due to the generosity of our fellow sisters in council that provided food and service.

Part of our **leadership** goal is to unite more ladies of the Diocese to be One Voice with us. We hoped to achieve this through better communication, publicity and outreach with personal invitations. And we did, a new brochure was developed to help achieve this goal along with getting our new website ptdccw.org up and running and filled with information about events on all levels of Council (pictures too!). As of our last meeting in January we had an increase in membership from last year of nearly 20%. Thanks to everyone who worked on the brochure committee, website, mentored and/or personally invited others to join us! I know this thank you includes every person in the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

In closing I want to thank each of you for: Inspiring me to deepen my faith...being a part of the Dream we have to share our faith... all the Laughter we shared at gatherings and conventions...all the Love, friendships and prayers we shared and will continue to share.

Our journey continues...

Cynthia Lacour, President