

**President's Report for 2014-2015**  
Pensacola-Tallahassee Council of Catholic Women  
April 2015

One year ago next month at the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual DCCW Convention I was elected president and I stated that I was honored to serve you and our DCCW as your president for the next two years. After reflecting on the past year, I can tell you that not only am I honored but I am looking forward to next year with great anticipation recognizing all of the opportunities that lie ahead and all the possibilities of what our Council can accomplish.

At my first board meeting I gave each board member a large bag with the words: Inspire...Dream...Laugh...Love and asked them to bring the bag back filled with their: Inspiring ideas for our Council year; Dreams of what they wanted to see our Council accomplish; Laughter to share as we work together and make new friends; Love from our hearts to serve our God and Council. From the ideas and dreams in the bags we set several goals that we hoped to accomplish over the next two years in the areas of spirituality, service and leadership.

One goal is to increase our growth in spirituality by making ourselves more knowledgeable and open to the New Evangelization of spreading God's Gospel message and this convention is aimed directly at helping us accomplish this growth. Also in an effort to increase spirituality throughout our Diocese, this year we partnered with the Diocesan Office of Faith Formation in offering a retreat. Hopefully we will work together to co-sponsor other spiritual opportunities in our diocese in the future.

In an effort to help members feel comfortable with the duties of leadership positions in all levels of Council, we plan to reinstitute the OWL (Organized Wise Ladies) program. This program consist of workshops on each elected office and parliamentary positions for ladies currently holding an office in our Council and also for mentoring ladies to serve in the future. Our past presidents have a wealth of knowledge and experience and we will bring this to your affiliations so look for the OWL Team when it travels to your Deanery holding workshops.

Another part of the leadership goal is to unite more ladies of the Diocese to be One Voice with us. We hope to achieve this through better communication, publicity and outreach with personal invitations. We have already developed a new brochure, had it printed and distributed to affiliations for Council Month last October. Our new website [ptdccw.org](http://ptdccw.org) is up and running and it is filled with information about events on all levels of Council (pictures too!). Also we are reaching out to parishes that are not affiliated with our Council and personally inviting them to Join Us - a special welcome to the newly reactivated East Central Deanery.

With our new goals being stated, I want to emphasize the service project that our organization has promoted throughout our Diocese for the past 40 years – the Burse Club. The money collected goes to support of the seminarians – our future priests. Our Diocese is blessed with 16 seminarians that benefit from our efforts and prayers. Other on going service projects that we promoted last year included: NCCW's program "Caps for Love" where mounds of plastic caps were collected and transported to a facility in south Florida where they were sorted and sold to raise money to purchase wheelchairs for needy children; FCCW's program "Hugs for the Homeless" where many of the affiliations collected money to provide help to the less fortunate living in our area and our ladies were also generous with their time and resources in assisting our Diocese by providing food and service at the Jubilee Mass and the Rite of Election receptions.

That brings us to today, with part of the mission statement of the NCCW in mind..." NCCW acts through its membership to support, empower and educate all Catholic women..." each person attending the convention will receive a copy of "We Are Called to Witness", a program of the NCCW leadership committee. This program is designed to help you discover and actively participate in sharing the New Evangelization. We hope you will share this program with your community families.

After reading all of the above goals, accomplishments and plans is it any wonder why I am proud and honored to be a part of the Pensacola-Tallahassee Council of Catholic Women.

May we always seek to: Inspire...Dream...Laugh...Love.

Cynthia Lacour, President