

President Update 2026 Winter Symposium

As president, I felt it was important to spend time reaching out to the women and priests of our diocese. Through those connections, I've really come to appreciate the beauty of our women and also to better understand the concerns within our councils.

I've traveled throughout the diocese, with the exception of November 2024 and December 2025. One of the best parts of all that travel has been meeting so many wonderful women. And I'll add—my husband didn't panic when I finally tallied up the mileage, so that's a win.

Enthusiasm truly is contagious. The Holy Spirit is clearly at work across our diocese. We are seeing young women step into leadership roles, and through prayer and invitation, many have said yes to taking on new responsibilities. It's been inspiring to witness.

After reviewing the Charitable Works Survey, I was honestly in awe of the love and service shown by the women of our diocese. From game nights, to supporting our priests, to caring for those in nursing homes—there is so much good happening. I couldn't possibly list it all, but it matters, and it's making a difference.

Since my last report, we've also held a Leadership Training in Lincoln. Kay Wessel, Teresa Koch, Val Able, and I had the privilege of working with the women in an atmosphere of love and support. These trainings are so valuable, and they truly need to continue for the benefit of both our women and our priests.

That said, there are some real concerns we need to acknowledge. In our trainings, it's become clear that COVID had a lasting impact on our councils. Fewer women are stepping forward to fill officer roles, and at times there's a feeling of, "We've always done it this way," that makes change difficult.

One of my greatest concerns is the lack of mentoring for women who are stepping into leadership. New leaders need the freedom to find their own way, but they also need to know someone is there to support them and answer questions when they arise.

Finally, we need to remember the importance of being present for our priests and councils when challenges come up. Saying, “That’s not our problem,” doesn’t move us forward—it pulls us away from our role as leaders. We’re called to walk alongside them, especially when things are difficult.

Your Humble Servant

President Judy Weston

Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women