



The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

June 2023

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Visit CDANYS.org and CatholicDaughters.org for more news and information about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas®. Join us on Facebook at Catholic Daughters New York State and watch our YouTube Channel, just go to youtube.com and search NYS Catholic Daughters.

It's Not Goodbye...

Theresa Duran, Immediate Past State Regent

My Dear Sisters,

As I sit here, at deadline, contemplating my last cover article for The Rising Dawn, I think of the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "There are no goodbyes for us. Wherever you are, you will always be in my heart."

I could begin to write a long, mushy message, but I have decided to leave you with the words of my "farewell speech" from the Convention Banquet:

"All glory for this blessing goes to God. But this journey of mine would not have been possible without the love and support of my incredible family. Hector, RJ, Katie, Matt: I fully understand and appreciate the sacrifices that you have made over the past 2 years, sacrifices that have permitted me to live my dream. I can never Thank you enough. You are the meaning in my life. I love you.

Heather, I can never thank you enough for the day you called and said to me 'I think it's time to have a conversation with Hector.' It led me to this moment.

To my older sister, Mary. **National Director Mary Impellizeri:** Your guidance and assistance over the past 2 years has truly been appreciated. You were there when I was born, you were there when

I became a member of CDA, you were there when I took each office, including this one: thank you for always being there.

To my other sister, **Helene Shepard:** What can I say? Daily face time conversations and your sage advice were sometimes – quite literally – the only

thing that kept me going or got me through. Your support has been invaluable. I

TRULY would not have been able to do this job without you.

Now, I know the other Past State Regents might argue with me on this, but: I can honestly say that I have had the best board ever!

Connie & Judy: we have traveled this path together for 4 years; **Tina & Patti:** you came on board just 2 years ago. We have worked hard, prayed hard, played hard and bonded. Your friendship is something I will always treasure.

So, this is it...

It's not that I'm bad at goodbyes, and I am not often at a loss for words, it's just that I don't have the words to honor this moment. I don't have the words to honor you and all that you have meant to me.

I don't have the words to explain the blessing that God has given me. I don't have the words that can justify this journey that I have taken with you over this term and what a blessing it has been in my life.

I don't have the words to honor what God has done in my life over these past two years. I don't have the word that can capture the experience. I am not sure how I did it, I am not sure what words I can use to end. It's not that I don't care, it's that I care so much and I will miss



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Joy & Fear

REV. RALPH SOMMER,
IMMEDIATE PAST STATE CHAPLAIN

Growing and Flourishing

Landscapers call the spring growing season *the hundred days of hell*. That's because everything is blooming and growing at a terrific rate and all their customers are expecting to have the work done in time for

Memorial Day and the Fourth of July parties. And even though they've pruned and trimmed, weeded and mowed, they have to go back and do it again at each property since the flush of spring growth can easily outpace their handiwork.

I feel some of the landscaper's pressure as I take care of my own garden. Where do all these weeds come from? Why do they grow seemingly overnight when the flower seeds I've planted seem to take forever from germination to bloom? I never remember planting THAT – how did it get THERE?

This is an apt metaphor for the growing reign of God. We can be overwhelmed by all the *weediness of the world* while our own carefully planned lives seem to be growing at a slug's pace. (And let's not even talk about garden slugs here!)

But the burst of spring is not only about our dealing with the invading unwanted shoots and vines. It is also a metaphor for all the growth God inspires in our inner gardens. I'm reminded of the poem "God's Grandeur" by Gerard Manly Hopkins in which he says:

*And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and
with ah! bright wings.*

Yes the growth and blooming of nature – though overwhelming at this time of the year – can be sign of the Holy Spirit overwhelming us with spiritual and personal growth.

Just as we call the landscapers in to help us manage and decipher garden growth, this is a good time to sit with a good spiritual counselor to help us discern what we should keep and what we should cut from our lives so that we too might be as fruitful as God desires.

These then are no hundred days of hell, but a hundred days of heaven and grace. Time to blossom and bloom!

Continued from front cover

you all so much; I mean I'll still be here but this, this moment right now, is the end of something very special.

I love you all. May God continue to bless you, to bless the United States of America and to bless the Catholic Daughters of New York State. Thank you."

I will only add this well known Irish Blessing to my message today: *May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.*

In Unity & Charity,

PS: I'm not crying, you're crying!

Stay Connected!

Remember to send dates for Court or Past Regent's Chapter events, activities and celebrations to **State Regent Connie Breindel** so she can add them to the calendar on line at **cdanys.org**

Please remember to check the calender to make sure you aren't making plans for a date when another major event is happening, especially within your Diocese.

Join us on our official, private Facebook page: **Catholic Daughters NY State** for news, updates, announcements, daily inspirations, Rosaries and prayer services.

Your New New York State Board

Congratulations to our newly elected officers

State Regent: Connie Breindel

1st Vice State Regent: Tina Bigelow

2nd Vice State Regent: Judy Sterling

State Secretary: Patti Drivanos

State Treasurer: Hazel Roberts



Let's Start Growing!

CONNIE BREINDEL, STATE REGENT

Wow, Wow, what a convention! There was a lot of work put into it but after I read the evaluations and heard the comments on Sunday made it all worthwhile. I was back at work on Monday but should have taken that day off too! Thank you to everyone that helped us with the convention; from those on committees to anyone that saw a need and jumped in to do something! THANK YOU!!

I am sorry if you did not come to the convention for whatever reason, you missed a really great time. Hopefully, you can make the next one. Don't forget about the National Convention in New Orleans next August.

I am honored and humbled that I was elected NY State Regent. I thank you for your confidence in me, the support you have shown me. The vision that I have for the Catholic Daughters in New York during my term as State Regent is to grow. I hope to establish several new courts throughout the state and increase the membership of the existing courts. Because of this, the theme that we will be using is based on Psalm 92: 12-14 Grow and Flourish, Planted in the Love of Christ.

As a member of the State Board, I have traveled around the state and witnessed the special sisterhood that we are part of, as members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas; the best national Catholic Women's organization there is! We need to share this blessing to women all around the state. So, let's start right now; and get growing!

Convention Was A Joy

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT



My Dear CDA Sisters

I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed being with you at your state convention. The love and camaraderie I witnessed and became part of was inspiring and I am grateful. I offer my congratulations to your new incoming officers: Connie, Tina, Judy, Patti, and Hazel. I pray you all find joy in your journey with CDA as you lead New York for the next two years. I urge you: do not take

this time for granted. Serving at the state level will bring so much to your faith and relational lives. Cherish this time with those you now work with, and for those whom you now serve.

I would like to take a moment to personally thank your outgoing State Regent, Theresa, who served with dedication and devotion these past two years. She and her team planned and executed an amazing convention. Theresa, I want to thank you for your kindness and the wonderful experience I was blessed to be part of. I met so many new friends and I carry the memories of joy and laughter with me.

Many of our CDA courts will be taking the summer off to decompress, relax, and gear up for the coming year. I pray that this break allows you to do just that; I also pray that you take this time to create new ideas for recruitment, service, and faith enhancing activities. May this break refresh us anew and allow us to serve our Church and each other with a fierce commitment in excellence and in charity.

Stay safe, be well, be blessed!

Emily Guilherme



The Past Regents and Officers Chapter of the Archdiocese of NY, in collaboration with the Past Regents Chapter of Rockville Centre, delivered Study Week Gift Bags to the Seminarians at Cathedral Seminary House of Formation in Douglaston, NY.

DD Karen Rave, Past State Regent Heather Rave, State Regent Theresa Duran, Past National Regent Helene Shepard, Regent Diane Meore, Regent Helene Kerrins and Seminarian Mom and CDA member Maureen Haas joined the young men for Mass and dinner before presenting them with the goody bags filled with snacks, candies and caffeine to help them through finals week.

The 2025 Nominating Committee



Congratulations to the following women who have been elected to the 2025 Nominating Committee:

Debbie DiTito, Chairman

Court Madonna #114, Port Jervis

Elizabeth Breindel

Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell

Sylvia Murdolo

Court St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram

Marguerite Forde

Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park

Nancy Clancy

Court Mother Admirable #592, Dannemora

The following alternates will serve, in order of election, if any of the above members cannot serve:

Violet Moesch

Court Sts. Kateri & Andre #2663, Peru

Melody Salas-Curra

Court Our Lady of the Lake #2585, Patterson

Take A Chance

TINA BIGELOW, 1ST VICE STATE REGENT

I want to thank each and every one of you for your vote of confidence, support and encouragement to serve as your 1st Vice State Regent and I look forward to starting this continued journey with our newly elected State Board. We will be having our 1st State Board meeting very soon and one of the things we will be doing is to look over the volunteer worksheets completed at the convention or online. It was heartwarming to hear several of you say that you will not only be attending the 2025 State Convention but also want to work at the same assignments given to you at the 2023 Convention. I am very excited as to how many of you expressed your desire to be a District Deputy or a State Chairman.

I will miss **State Regent Theresa Duran** leading the way to meetings, Pray & Plays, and CDA events throughout the State because while she kept us working hard to spread, and really understand, the theme **Seek Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly**, she also made it so we enjoyed every minute of it.

She set the standards high when it came to leadership, creativity, confidence, and boldness and gave us many tools to work with to succeed in our newly elected **State Regent Connie Breindel's** theme based on Psalm 92: 12-14: **Grow and Flourish, Planted in the Love of Christ.**

I love this theme for so many reasons. First of all I love to plant my flowers every spring. There is just something so satisfying when you till the ground to loosen it up so that you can plant new seeds.

I saw this same kind of energy at the convention... fears and boundaries loosened up after 3 long years of the COVID with many lessons planted in our hearts to carry out the Love of Christ. I love that flowers add color and fragrance to our homes, as will our new leaders and members to our Home with God. I love to watch the humming birds and bumble bees enjoy their jobs of pollinating because they are working with me to spread the beauty of God's creativity.

May we all enjoy our missions to plant, grow, and flourish so that we can spread a beautiful and enriching Circle of Christ's Love. So on your marks, get set, start planting...

He Pointed His Finger at Me

JUDY STERLING, 2ND VICE STATE REGENT

My Dear Sisters, the State Convention has ended, I am still trying to catch up on sleep and energy! I never really knew or appreciated how much time and energy the past State Officers put in and made the convention look so easy to put on. The fun and friendships cannot be compared to anything I have ever experienced. The women of Catholic Daughters are the best. Your love and support these past 2 years and especially these past 6 months have been a blessing to me and my family. At the convention, **Theresa** read a poem **He Pointed His Finger at Me**. I sat and listened to the words and laughed to myself saying: that was Me”!

I could come up with lots of reasons of why I should say no, but I prayed to the Holy Spirit, and told Helene Yes! I am beyond words to express how grateful I am that God pointed his finger at me. There have been a few times this year I had to handle things, that I never would have been able to do without God, and my Catholic Daughter Sisters! Many of you probably don't realize that knowing that your sisters are praying for you is a blessing. You ladies are the best!

Theresa has set the bar high for those of us coming up behind! It was wonderful meeting many of you at Memorial Masses, and Anniversaries. Pray & Play weekends were a Peaceful Prayer time for us, and made us reach down to our inner souls and reflect on our surroundings. Officer training around the State last year was informative and fun. (I hope everyone planted their seeds this spring). Think about planting new seeds in your courts as you prepare for the Fall. Try something new, or maybe even something your court did years before, people and times have changed and the outcome may be different.

I know that I am truly blessed and lucky that **Theresa** and **Connie** were there when I said yes, and as **Connie, Tina, Patti, Hazel** and I begin the next 2 years as your **New York State Board**, you continue to keep us in your prayers.

With God's Love, Blessings, and your prayers, we will continue with our motto of: Unity and Charity and keep thinking about going **outside of the box**.

I hope and pray that everyone has a safe, healthy summer and return with renewed spirits!

Our Amazing Family

MARY LYNN BORST, STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

As I finish my 2nd year of being the State Chairman of Family, I want to thank the 25 courts that submitted reports for the Family spoke of the Circle of Love for the 2022-2023 year. It was quite obvious that each court executed its project with great enthusiasm and care. The projects were reviewed carefully, and the top three projects were presented to the delegation at the New York State Convention.

Court St. Joseph, #975, Ronkonkoma, which began the **Butterfly Garden Café** in their parish, where one Sunday per month, members work together to create a wonderful opportunity for families of the parish to break bread together after Mass. Complimentary coffee and snacks are provided in a lovely atmosphere of an enchanting butterfly theme.

Court Fr. John P. Mooney #1921, Mahopac, participated in an **Adopt-a-Family Program** for the holidays in 2022 to benefit the **Putnam/Northern Westchester Women's Resource Center** which assists women who have experienced domestic violence/abuse, sexual assault, stalking, human trafficking as well as other violent crimes and forms of abuse.

Court Sts. Kateri and Andre, #2663, Morrisonville, has a **Threads of Faith** group which uses their talents of sewing and crafting to bring comfort to those in need. They donated 25 sewn bags containing daily personal essentials and 25 Pillow Pals to a Stop Domestic Violence Program, and made 300 quilted placemats which were placed in Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets provided to families in need.

Please encourage your membership to choose a project in the upcoming year (must be completed before February 1, 2024) for the Family spoke and make a difference for families in your neighborhood!

Attention Chaplains:

We want to hear what you have to say! Please feel free to contact **State Regent Connie Breindel** at **716-823-0741** or **cbreindel@verizon.net** about the possibility of contributing an article for a future issue of *The Rising Dawn*.



Excited to Begin My Journey As NYS State Treasurer

HAZEL ROBERTS, STATE TREASURER

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your confidence in me and to introduce myself as your newly elected NYS Treasurer. My name is Hazel Roberts and I have been a member of the Catholic Daughters since 2006. I have served as Regent, Vice Regent, Recording Secretary and am currently Treasurer of **Court St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram**; a hamlet located almost smack dab in the middle of Long Island.

The youngest of 4 children, I grew up in Lake Ronkonkoma, about 15 minutes from where I now reside with my husband John. We have been married for 40 years and are blessed to have one son, Kyle (28 years old), who is currently in the Air Force.

I have been in love with organization since I first met the ladies of my home court and am honored to have been approached about serving on the State level. It was wonderful to meet so many of you at the NYS Convention. The ladies of this organization never cease to amaze me with their enthusiasm, support and love for each other and their courts.

I am looking forward to working with the Connie, Tina, Judy, Patti and all of the members of NY State to help our Order **Grow and Flourish, planted in the love of Christ**.

The Life Cycle of a Deposit

PATTI DRIVANOS, STATE SECRETARY

So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31)

It was wonderful to come together at the NYS 58th Biennial Convention in Saratoga Springs where we did eat, drink and praise God in our wonderful Masses and our teeny tiny prayer breaks. If you were unable to attend, I hope you will make it a priority to attend the next one – because everyone had rave reviews.

Anna Lucia, State Chairman of National Projects, brought up an interesting point during her presentation for National Projects and Charities. She explained how checks and payments are processed:

- The local Court sends in a payment to a State Chairman.
- The State Chair then prepares a statement and sends it with the checks, by mail, to the State Secretary.
- The State Secretary then collects the mail, prepares a statement and sends it with the checks, by mail, to the State Treasurer.
- The State Treasurer then collects the mail, prepares the deposit and goes to the bank.

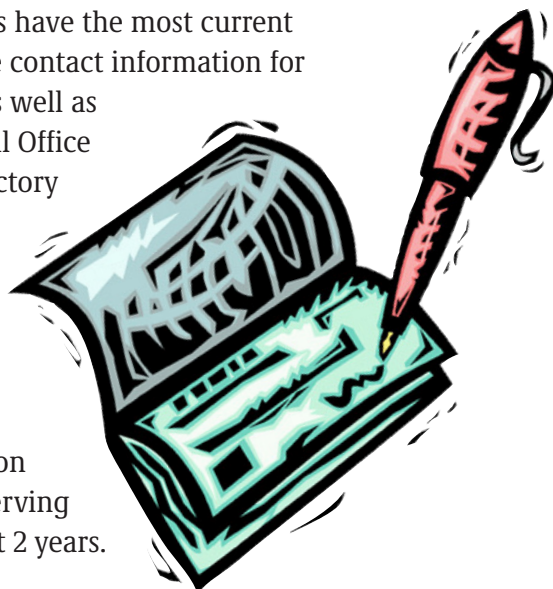
As you can clearly see, it might take a few days for your check to actually get deposited at the bank. And that is assuming that none of these busy ladies have another commitment or family issue that might not allow them to perform the duties in just one day.

Some things which can further delay the processing of payments include: the Court check being made out incorrectly; the check not containing two signatures; the check being sent to the wrong person (not the State Chairman but to the NYS Secretary or NYS Treasurer or even the National Office); delays in the mail delivery; and the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Please make sure your officers have the most current NYS Directory which contains the contact information for the NYS Officers and Chairman as well as National Officers and the National Office contacts. The 2023-2025 NYS Directory will be forthcoming.

Please verify that every Court check sent to the State is made out to ***Catholic Daughters of the Americas*** and has 2 signatures.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience. I look forward to serving as your NYS Secretary for the next 2 years.



WITH GOD
ALL
THINGS
ARE
POSSIBLE

← MATTHEW 19:26 →

DOES YOUR COURT HAVE A CONVENTION FUND?

If you don't you should!

All courts need to be represented at both State and National Conventions and exercise the right to vote on our leaders, policies, Bylaws and Resolutions. Transfer some money to a savings account each month, allocate a portion of all fundraisers or hold an event specifically to raise funds for this purpose.

Especially if you don't usually attended or missed this year's convention due to lack of personal funds, I encourage you to begin today so that you can join us in New Orleans in 2024 and for the 59th Biennial State Convention in 2025.



JCDA in Action!

The Junior Members of Court Madonna #114, Port Jervis, have had a busy spring!

In March, they hosted a Lenten Day of Recollection for girls in 5th grade and up. The day began with Mass in the chapel at the Church of the Immaculate Conception/ St. Mary's Church in Port Jervis celebrated by Rev. Fr. Anthony Giacona, pastor. Sister Terese and Sister Mae, two Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal led the day's events, which included an ice breaker game, a talk about prayer and the sacraments, and Sister Terese's vocation story. The Junior Catholic Daughters provided snacks and lunch for the girls, as well as a craft project that they created for the residents at St. Joseph's Place at Bon Secours Community Hospital. The day ended with Adoration and Confession, and the blessing of miraculous medals that the Sister brought for the girls.

Before their May meeting, the girls held a May Crowning in the Chapel. To celebrate Our Blessed Mother, they sang one of their favorite Marian hymns, "Immaculate Mary," and prayed the fifth Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary. President Elia placed the crown of flowers on Mary's head.

NYS CDA Scholarships

JOANNE LEONARDI, STATE CHAIRMAN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

I had 8 readers for the entries, four of whom were not Catholic Daughters (two are nuns and the other two are teachers, the other 4 were Catholic Daughters. Each reader rated all applications individually from 1-8 and then I tallied the results. There was a tie, so I had to ask another CDA member in to read and break the tie. It was very hard to choose...I am proud to announce the winners of the 2023 New York State Scholarships:

John Michael Ehrman Jr,

Mother: Elizabeth Ehrmann

Court St Aiden #1577, Williston Park

Attending: William & Mary, Undeclared major

Angelica Lee

Mother: Tracey McElhone-Lee

Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park

Attending: De Sales University, Physician Assistant Program

Natalie Ceonzo

Mother: Jennifer Ceonzo

Court St. Elizabeth #2687

Attending: Clemson or Virginia Tech, Engineering Program

Thank you!

To the Courts who have donated to us, we would like to thank you for thinking of us at this exciting time as we form our new Court. We plan to use these funds to support this year's charitable events in our community and ones supported Nationally by CDA.

We are honored to be among you all.

With gratitude,
Court Spiritus Sanctus # 2784,
West Nyack

2023 Education Contest Winners

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

I was pleased to receive entries for the 2023 Education Contest from twelve (12) local Courts. Each sponsoring Court had one or more winners! As always, it was a tough job for the judges to determine winners in each category and division. All entries were of very high quality and I thank everyone who participated. All 1st-place winners at the NYS level were forwarded to Darlene Moritz, National Chair. I am hopeful we will once again

have one or more National winners. NYS winners are listed below and, if there are no winners in a division, there were no entries. I would encourage all local Courts to consider sharing the contest with both students and adults as it is a great way to promote both our beloved Catholic faith and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

ART

Division 1

1st Place **Vivian Simpson**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

2nd Place **Celina Harris**
Ct. Ave Maria #832,
Kings Park

3rd Place **Veronica Dunckley**
Ct. Queen of Angels #869,
Hicksville

Division 2

1st Place **Andrew Arguiarro**
Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

2nd Place **Kaitlin Adamcik**
Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

3rd Place **Elizabeth Elias**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

POETRY

Division 1

1st Place **Joshua Adamcik**
Ct. Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

2nd Place **Alexa Mitrousis**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

3rd Place **Caleigh Ferry**
Ct. St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419,
Washingtonville

Division 2

1st Place **James Pizzardi**
Ct. St. Aidan #1577,
Williston Park

2nd Place **Aneesa Ali**
Ct. Cortland #919,
Cortland

3rd Place **Kaitlin Adamcik**
Ct. Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

Division 3

1st Place **Elia Trujillo-Castillo**
Ct. Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

2nd Place **Madelyn Goetz**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931
Brockport

Division 4

1st Place **Pauline Elser**
Ct. Margaret Mary #768,
Monroe

2nd Place **Lisa Dwyer**
Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

3rd Place **Patricia Ziegler**
Ct. Ave Maria #832,
Kings Park

ESSAY

Division 1

1st Place **Savanna Jaeger George**
Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

2nd Place **Annika Brown**
Ct. St. Michael #1173,
Penn Yan

3rd Place **Fiona Dale**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

Division 2

1st Place **Grace Gavigan**
Ct. Joan of Arc #604,
Haverstraw

2nd Place **Madison Proctor**
Ct. Ave Maria #832,
Kings Park

3rd Place **Kaitlin Adamcik**
Ct. Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

Division 3

1st Place **Zachary Adamcik**
Ct. Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

2nd Place **Madelyn Goetz**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

COMPUTER ART

Division 1

1st Place **Emma Williams**
Ct. Cortland #919,
Cortland

Division 2

1st Place **Chace Tovar**
Ct. Queen of Angels #869,
Hicksville

2nd Place **Ella McCann**
Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

MUSIC

Division 2

1st Place **Jack Lyke**
Ct. Queen of Angels #869,
Hicksville

PHOTOGRAPHY

Division 2

1st Place **Owen Dammacco**
Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756
North Merrick

Division 3

1st Place **Elia Trujillo-Castillo**
Ct. Madonna #114,
Port Jervis

Division 4

1st Place **Adriana Pulido**
Ct. Margaret Mary #768,
Monroe

2nd Place **Charilla S. Conner**
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

3rd Place **Kathy Doyle**
Ct. Queen of Angels #869,
Hicksville

AROUND THE STATE



Regent's Husband Ordained As Deacon

State Regent Theresa Duran and Past National Regent Helene Shepard attended the Ordination Mass for the 6 new members of the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Rockville Centre. Among them was Deacon Paul Cavanagh, husband of Cathy Cavanagh, Regent of Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport. The following day, Theresa and Helene, along with other members of Ct. Stella Maris: National Director Mary Impellizeri, Vice Regent Gerry Dean, Mary Blaney, Mary Lou Anglim and proud mother-in-law Cathy Pomerico attended Deacon Paul's 1st Mass at the Church St. Christopher where the newly ordained Deacon wore the family stole of the late Deacon Jim Blaney.



Anniversary Coffee Hour

Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport, kicked off their 100th Anniversary with a Mass at Our Holy Redeemer Church. Officers robed for the Mass, State Regent Theresa Duran and Regent Cathy Cavanagh were the lectors; members Patrica Eklund and Gloria DiBrizzi served as Eucharistic Ministers; and the parish was invited to a Coffee Hour after Mass. The court displayed scrap books from over the years and handed our recruitment fliers. Five women expressed interest and promised to attend the next meeting to learn more!



Baby Shower

Court St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram, held their Annual Baby Shower in conjunction with the Crowning of our Blessed Mother Mary. The members were extremely generous, donating clothing, diapers, toiletries and blankets. The



Court also donated gift cards for Walmart and Target to assist the mothers. The recipient of the gifts was the Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaborative (PICHC), of the Suffolk County Health Department. PICHC is comprised of social workers who make home visits to women with children up to age 2 in the household. They provide health education to improve birth outcome. They also assist the family with obtaining health insurance, WIC, primary or prenatal care and help schedule appointments. Referrals come from the hospital, churches and schools. The program is county funded. PICHC was extremely grateful for the donations.



Pictured are Regent Sylvia Murdolo, PICHC Program Director Ellen Higgins and her assistant Jocelyn Relevo.

SOS! Send Other Stories

Please submit stories and photos before August 8th for our September issue. Email tduran@optonline.net to share your story with the state! Let us know about successful fundraisers, impactful events and community involvement.



70 Year Member Honored

Court Gleason #924, Clyde, hosted a reception at their November 2022 meeting for long-time member **Marianne Weaver**. She has just passed her 70th year this November as a Catholic Daughter and remains an active member and mentor for the court.

Over the 70 years that Marianne Weaver was a member of Court Gleason, she served as Regent four times, as Vice Regent, as Financial Secretary, and as the Chairman of the Legislation Committee. Marianne was in charge of the Phone Tree for over 25 years. She was also an active member of the **Past Regents Chapter of the Diocese of Rochester**.

Her main focus, though, was her service as the advisor of our **Junior Catholic Daughter Court**, where she lead approximately 60 teenage girls in many fun activities and service projects such as bringing Christmas to local shut-ins.

Seated, left, in the photo is **Marianne Weaver**, standing, right, is **Regent Sharon Ferindino**.



New Members Welcomed

Court Mary Immaculate #479, Plattsburgh, received 5 new members to their court at their Christmas celebration on December 5th. From left to right are new members **Lisa Mockus, Karen Peryea, Letitia Taylor, Margaret Stewart, and Wendy Neyland**. With them is **Regent Mary Skillan**.

The court looks forward to getting these ladies involved in committees and activities and their enjoying many years of membership in the court.



Paint Night Fundraiser

Court St. Pius X #1690, Levittown, hosted their first **Paint Night Fundraiser** on Friday, March 3rd to a sold out crowd of 50 people! The guests enjoyed wine, cheese, snacks and yummy desserts, all while creating a beautiful **Spring in Bloom** canvas landscape. The event was open to all parishioners at St. Bernard's Church. Aside from profiting over \$1,000 from the event, plus additional funds from a 50/50, court members and parishioners shared a wonderful night of fun and fellowship. They had such a great time, they're already planning on holding the event again next year!

Shown above in photo one are artists and their creations; in photo two **Vice Regent Susie Stalzer** and **Regent Susan Maher** show off their creations.



Journey With CDA!

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

We are all on a journey with our newly elected state officers for the coming term. We will find that the road to success for all Catholic Daughters requires a plan. Consider the following steps for a successful journey with our newly elected leadership team.

If planning isn't thorough, the trip will be very long and tedious. You are all leaders and therefore, you will be on this road trip with your court. Make sure you are prepared, so that your trip will be successful. The road to success has many clear markers.

Packing: Pack all important items such as: Road Map, Bylaws, Tools of the Trade, Snacks, State Newsletter, Procedure Manual, National Quarterly, Share Magazine, and your Bible. Are you aware of these tools? Use these tools on a regular basis.

Planning: An organizational plan is basically a "to do" list. List the plan for all the work and the events you wish to accomplish. List the tasks involved and who is responsible for them and when they will be done. A good plan can help you set priorities. Make sure the tasks get done on time. Focus on one thing at a time. Work is shared by officers and members. Make your goals clear. Get a handle on big projects by breaking them into smaller tasks. See the big picture of what the Catholic Daughters are doing.

Know Your Destination: First, think about all the

work that your court does and list the general categories; for example: Circle of Love, Fundraising, Community Outreach, Website... The list could go on. Ask yourself, where do you want to be when the work and the events are over?

Plotting The Route: Make sure the goals for your work in each category are clear. Next, discuss each goal and talk about all the tasks that need to be done to achieve that goal. At this time, they do not have to be in order, just recorded.

Reading The Direction Signs: When all the tasks are listed, number them to a general order – what comes first; what should happen at the same time; what comes last? Then draft a schedule for the tasks – either when they will be completed or when they will begin. The goal is to set a schedule that is challenging but realistic.

Obeying The Traffic Rules: Now that you have set your goals, you need to review them. You may have to adjust the goals or the steps to achieve them. Get excited and take action. Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishments.

Handling Detours: Life is stressful enough when things go wrong. When you feel so overwhelmed you don't know what to do, just take a deep breath. List what needs to be done. Consult with others. Make a schedule. Decide what is important to do or not do and review the goal if necessary.

Like Lily Tomlin says, "The road to success is always under construction." Let's hit the road!





CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS®
58TH New York
STATE CONVENTION



Going My Way?

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

It was a wonderful convention. Prayers and congratulations to **Connie Breindel** and the new State Officers. It was a blessing to be able to be with each of you as we prayed, played, and did the work we needed to do. There were so many Holy Moments shared among us and I will treasure them always.

It was a great honor to be the State Chairman of the Spiritual Enhancement spoke of the Circle of Love. Many thanks to our **Worthy State Regent Theresa Duran** for choosing me for this chairmanship and for her support and advice and the vast opportunities that I have had during my term. I offer this prayer for each of you, "Strong and faithful God, keep my Catholic Daughter sisters and their families safe from injury and harm and make them a blessing to all they meet each day."

And now a word from our sponsor...

My husband John and I were on our way to Lake George for the day. As he packed the car, I took our dog Bella for a walk down the street. It was a beautiful day. When we got to the corner, we crossed the avenue and stopped. Bella wanted to head back home as we always do. I wanted to go straight ahead, knowing that though the work to be done at the lake house might be tough, a day at the lake was worth it. Bella insisted we go back but I knew what awaited us was better.

It got me thinking. How many times have I insisted on going my way, even though God was pulling me in a new direction. I wanted to stay or go back, but the Lord wanted me to follow in the path He laid out for me. I thought I knew better and resisted, but He had a plan and a reason for me to follow His Way.

So, I'm going to think about that the next time I am resisting the direction Jesus wants me to pursue. Will I be like Bella, pulling one way because that's where I want to go, or will I follow the lead of the Master and take His path. Just something to ponder this summer.

May the Lord bless you abundantly and may the warm sun and the quiet moments of June, July and August bring you peace and refresh your soul. God bless.

NY State Newsletter Contest Winners Announced

SYLVIA MURDOLO, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

I am recuperating from a wonderful 58th Biennial State Convention. Nevertheless, I didn't want to miss my opportunity to announce to those who couldn't make the Convention, the results of the Newsletter Contest:

Category I, Division I

1st Place: **Court McLaughlin #422, Saratoga Springs**

Category I, Division II

1st Place: **Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell**

2nd Place: **Court St. Pius X #1690, Levittown**

3rd Place: **Court Margaret Mary #768, Monroe**

Category II, Division II

1st Place: **Court Madonna #114, Port Jervis**

2nd Place: **Court St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville**

3rd Place: **Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park**

Congratulations to all the winners. Keep up the good work!

Why do we do newsletters anyway? To show off? Yes!

- Show off the work we do
- Show off the camaraderie we share
- Show off the impact we have on our community
- Show off the Love we have for our Lord Jesus Christ and His sweet Mother.

I also see the benefit of leaving a few copies of your Court newsletter issue here and there in Church. It is an Evangelizing Tool. We are a vibrant order, full of fun ideas and doable goals bringing God to the people we meet.

At the Convention it was discussed to share our newsletters with each other. I have a growing list of "VIP" emails from the Courts who were present. I will send my Court newsletter to them. The best way to support each other is to know what each other is up to.

Thank you for reading our columns. May Our Good Lord greatly bless you and your beautiful Courts.

National Projects & Charities

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Hopefully warm summer days are underway by the time you are reading this, as just yesterday we had snowflakes where I live. Got to love the North Country! Gratefully, we did have lovely warm weather at the NYS Convention in Saratoga Springs and three cheers to **Lu Koch** and **Mary Lynn Borst** for the awesome job they did as Co-Chairman helping the State Board plan the event – one of the finest I’ve attended!

It has been a pleasure serving as your Chairperson for National Projects & Charities since 2011. Raising funds has not been easy since COVID put such a crimp in our lifestyle, but allow me to share the good things that were recognized at the Convention in my field.

Over the past two years, 46 out of 84 courts contributed to National Projects & Charities: 1st highest contributor **Court Madonna #114 Port Jervis**; 2nd was **Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311 Blasdell**; and 3rd was **Court Columbia #248, Hudson**. Congratulations to all, New York State thanks you for your contributions!

17 Courts donated approximately \$2145 to **Hurricane Ian**, plus two personal donors sent money to me.

15 Courts donated to efforts to support **Ukraine**: approximately \$1830 came in from courts plus two other personal donors; not to mention the supplies and other fundraisers for this.

At the convention, we were blessed with the presence of **National Chaplain Fr. Boquet, President of Human Life International**, our newest charity. What a phenomenal speaker he is! Even though only 32 out of 84 Courts responded to our special call for donations to HLI, we were able to present Fr. Boquet with \$1200 at the convention.

I must point out a few outstanding things:

For the first time I can remember, I received a JCDA donation! **Junior Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park** donated \$150 to the Hurricane Ian appeal.

Rev. J. Scardella, Chaplain of Court Père LeMoyné #833, Fulton, personally matched the court donation to HLI. Thank-you, Father!

Jane Woods, the newly elected treasurer of **Court St. Monica #2598, Peru**, took her job very seriously. In reviewing her books, she noted that the court had not fulfilled their National Project duties for a few years. She brought it before the court & I was sent a sent for \$480. Great job, Jane! If courts have the resources to meet obligations, monies should be donated, not stored in accounts.

God bless you all. Always remember CDA: Can Do Anything! And, as an old convention friend would say “We shall persevere!”

Put Your Nets Into The Deep: Moving Mountains

2023 National Fall Retreat

Retreat Director: Fr. Shenan Boquet, National Chaplain

Friday, November 10-Sunday, November 12
(begins and ends with noon lunch)

Spirituality Life Center,
7100 E 45th St. N, Bel Aire, Kansas 67226

\$300 includes room and meals
Limited to 65 retreatants.

Visit catholicdaughters.org/fall-retreat to register

It’s never too early to begin planning and start saving for the

60th Biennial
National Convention

to be held in beautiful

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 14-18, 2023

A Summer Prayer

Long warm days...

The pace of life slows...

A time for picnics and rest
in the shade...

Lord, help me to rest
awhile in the cooling
shade of your presence.

Slow down my restless
heart and fill me with
gentle compassion for all
your people.

Found on www.xavier.edu

Rising Dawn Subscriptions

While only one printed version is sent to each court unless they purchase additional subscriptions, the email version can be sent to any and all members of CDA in NYS. An electronic version is also posted on the website at cdanys.org.

Please send your request to **Theresa Duran** at tduran@optonline.net and you will be added to the email version subscription.

To receive additional printed subscriptions to **The Rising Dawn**, please send \$10 (checks made payable to Catholic Daughters of the Americas) to Theresa at 31 Triangle Pl., Freeport, NY 11520

Important Dates

Jun 1st	Birthday of Past National Regent Helene Shepard
Jun 4th	Priest Appreciation Day
Jun 11th	Corpus Christi
Jun 14th	Flag Day
Jun 18th	CDA Instituted in 1903 Father's Day
Jul 4th	Independence Day
Jul 20-23rd	State Officer Training, Scottsdale, AZ
Aug 5th	Past Regents Chapter of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Summer Spree
Aug 8th	September Rising Dawn Deadline
Aug 15th	Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary
Aug 19th	Birthday of Immediate Past State Regent Theresa Duran
Aug 26th	Birthday of Past State Regent Heather Rave
Sep 4th	Labor Day
Sep 8th	Birthday of The Blessed Mother
Sep 16	100th Anniversary Celebration Court Pere Le Moyne #833, Fulton
Sep 23	Rochester Diocese Memorial Mass & 100th Anniversary Celebration Court Waterloo #806, Waterloo
Sep 30	Birthday of State Secretary Patti Drivanos
Oct 7th	Past Regents Chapter of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Memorial Mass & Luncheon
Nov 4	Past Regents and Officers Chapter of the Archdiocese Memorial Mass 100th Anniversary Celebration Court Ave Maria #832 Kings Park



Mission Statement of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

The purposes of the organization are to participate in the religious, charitable

and educational Apostolates of the Church. Catholic Daughters of the Americas engages in creative and spiritual programs which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents in meaningful ways that positively influence the welfare of the Church and all people throughout the world.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.