



The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

Fall 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.

Grow & Flourish!

CONNIE BREINDEL, STATE REGENT



My Dear Sisters,

It took a bit to decide what to say for the first time as your State Regent. I started my letter several times and finally decided to clear my mind, ask God for guidance, and see where that takes me. I know He would never steer me wrong!

I had the pleasure recently to attend the monthly meeting for **Court Infant Saviour #2780, Pine Bush**. It was exciting! I was there at their institution last July; and to see what they have accomplished in that year is inspiring. I was amazed at all the good things in their trifold and heard their plans for the upcoming year. Would you believe they have an activity scheduled each month? Now, these activities aren't all completely the court—for example, they will have a table at the area's **Fall Fest**—but it is still an activity getting others to see, hear and learn about Catholic Daughters.

I don't want to single them out, but I happened to be there. I am sure there are other courts with monthly activities. If so, toot your own horn, submit pictures for the **Rising Dawn**. It is good to hear what other courts are doing, it's inspirational to the courts that may just be going through the motions. Don't let your court be stagnant. Like our theme says: **Grow and flourish, planted in the love of Christ**. Courts can't be stagnant and grow at the same time, or be idle and flourish. Let's focus on our theme

this upcoming year and pick up another project or two. In fact, I challenge all courts to do this and submit at least one picture for publication in an upcoming issue of the **Rising Dawn**.

Speaking of the newsletter, you will see a new column titled **Out & About with the State Officers**. The visit to Ct. Infant Saviour inspired me to want to visit more courts at their regular monthly meetings.

I have encouraged **Tina, Judy, Patti, and Hazel** to visit courts too; especially in the Diocese they supervise. I am asking for your help with this, please invite the officers to regular meetings. We can't do this without you. We do receive invitations to the bigger events, why not a regular meeting too?

I know I will go to any court meeting if my schedule permits. Just ask! We also have a new **Chaplain's Corner /Spiritual Advisors Section** area and are looking for volunteers to submit articles for it. Please speak to your Chaplain or Spiritual Advisor about it. Most of all, this year, let's take our theme to heart and **grow and flourish, planted in the love of Christ!**

In Unity & Charity,



Hello, My Name Is...

REV. ROBERT ORŁOWSKI,
IMMEDIATE PAST STATE CHAPLAIN

Dear Catholic Daughters,

Let me begin with a simple introduction. My name is **Fr. Robert Orłowski**, I am your new **New York State Chaplain**.

As an introduction, allow me to tell you a bit more about myself and how I became involved with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

I'm 55 years old. I grew up in **Lackawanna, NY**, in the **Diocese of Buffalo**. I have been ordained for 26 years and for the last 11 years have been the pastor of **Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish** in Blasdell, NY, where I encountered CDA. I was asked to be the Chaplain for **Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311**. I said yes and it has been a wonderful experience.

Participating in the Court's activities took me to many places. You know how it is with any organization, you do this and that and before you know it, your part of something greater than yourself, your Court or your community.

I think that's one of the many important aspects of the Catholic Daughters it can be limitless. Opportunities are always just around the corner. **Court Our Mother of Good Counsel** is not shy about becoming a part of the surrounding community, or investing in activities that build fellowship within the Court itself. Just to name a few, there are talks and spiritual experiences for members to participate in. Not to mention marching in the **Memorial Day Parade**, **Breakfast with Santa** and the ever-popular **Trunk or Treat**. The ladies of **Court Our Mother of Good Counsel** are always busy about something, and I have had the pleasure of being as involved as I can.

Now, how does one become a **State Chaplain** you may wonder? I was wondering that myself and *POOF* it happened.

As I said, for 11 years now I have been active with the CDA. I even had the great experience of attending and celebrating Mass at a **Pray & Play Weekend**. (If another weekend is offered, I suggest trying to attend. It's a great way to enhance your spirituality, build community with other Courts and have fun all the while you Pray & Play.) But back to being asked to be a State Chaplain. Our current **State Regent, Connie Breindel**, asked me to think about the possibility of being our State Chaplain. I took the request to prayer and talked it over with a few friends, but I knew I would say yes. Working with **Connie** and other ladies across the State will be a positive and rewarding experience. Thank you, State Regent, for your kind request.

Connie and I quickly began working on a motto or theme we thought would sum up the direction of the CDA in NYS. Together we came up with **Grow & Flourish, Planted in the Love of Christ – Psalm 92:12-14**.

It's important to remember that we grow rooted in Christ and we only reach our potential in that way. Furthermore, it's a chance to remember to foster the mission of **Unity & Charity** among members while reaching out to other women who might wish to join in the mission of an established Court or institute new Courts across the State.

Finally, I had the opportunity to be invited to the **State and Territorial Officers' Conference** in Arizona this past July. It was a grand experience! Officers from across the country were there learning, praying and laughing together. It was both lighthearted and intense at the same time.

I tell you these NYS Officers are dedicated to the mission and ideals of the Catholic Daughters. They learned a lot; I learned a lot. One big takeaway from the conference was the suggestion of the National leadership to encourage an increase in membership and a willingness to help foster and begin new Courts in individual States. I thought: Connie you were on the ball and ahead of the curve with our theme.

So, thank you Catholic Daughters of New York State. I'm blessed to be a part of your great organization.

Fr. Rob Orłowski

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.

God Is
WITHIN HER
She
WILL NOT FALL

HAMMER, NAILS, & HEART

TINA BIGELOW, 1ST VICE STATE REGENT

Summer is almost over and almost every day it has been raining. So much rain that roads, homes, and communities have been destroyed. And where there was no rain, homes have been destroyed by wildfires.

As we watch the news of communities being destroyed by floods, wildfires, and tornadoes, our compassionate hearts want to reach out and help these homeless victims.

With each and every compassionate and generous heart of the Catholic Daughters we can help one of these homeless victims in partnership with **Habitat for Humanity**. All you need to do is participate in our ongoing **Building For The Future** fundraising efforts.

This long-term goal will sponsor our third **Habitat for Humanity Home** in New York. We set this goal three years ago and have been very successful in our yearly fundraisers. The first two years we did it with **Parklane Jewelry**, the third year with **Touchstone Crystal**. This year, the NYS Board chose to hold our fundraiser with **Pampered Chef**.

Please know that any donations throughout the year towards this **Building For the Future** would be greatly appreciated—this means: please send any Habitat for Humanity donations to NY State, not the National Office—because in order to put our application in for National CDA partnership, we must raise half of the funds needed to build a new home. Once we have reached the required funds, we will be able to provide the finances needed for the new home and be a participant in building these homes with our own hands and hammers.

Did you know that CDA was one of the first women's organizations to complete a house (foundation to move in) in just seven days as a part of **Habitat's Blitz Build** program?

The Catholic Daughters have built homes in **Albany, NY; Port Jarvis, NY; Riverside, CA; Porterville, CA, New Orleans, LA; Baton Rouge, LA; Lake Charles, LA; Lakewood, NJ; Dilworth, MN; Corpus Christi, TX; Wichita Falls, TX; Eagle Lake, TX; Weston WV; Brockton, MA; Williamsburg, VA; Owatonna, MN; Marana AZ; and Pasco, WA**. In 2005, we donated money to build homes in the **Diocese of Gunther, Indonesia** after their devastating tsunami. We helped build 20 homes in the 40 days of Lent 2008, in **Mexico**, we built 4 homes in **Haiti** in the summer of 2010; and the latest is a new build in **New Jersey** where **NJ CDA** members raised \$50,000! The ground breaking took place on May 25, 2023.

In December 2017, National Regent Helene Shepard and her board awarded the **Texas CDA State Court** a \$15,000 grant to help with the costs of a build in the **State of Texas** and the rest of the \$50,000 was raised through court donations and a HFH fundraiser.

As you can see when our hearts yearn to be compassionate and generous, CDA Can Do Anything when we work in Unity. So let's continue **Building For The Future** so we can plan out own NY Build!



NY Catholic Daughters to Participate in the Eucharistic Congress

"The Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration." –Pope St. John Paul II

The eight Catholic dioceses of New York State are sponsoring an historic statewide Eucharistic Congress, which will be held at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York from October 20-22, 2023.

Catholics from across New York State are getting ready to converge on the **Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, Auriesville, NY**, this October 20-22 for the **New York State Eucharistic Congress**. Up to ten thousand faithful are expected to come for 40 hours of Eucharistic adoration, inspiring talks, Masses celebrated by the bishops and priests from throughout NY State, a Eucharistic procession and uplifting music.

The guest speakers include **Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Fr. Dave Dwyer, CSP, Bishop Joseph Espallat, Fr. Richard Fragomeni, Tim Glemkowski, Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, Prof. Peter Kreeft, Fr. Roger Landry, Sr. Mary Grace Langrell, SV, Bishop Terry LaValley, Lisa Lickona, Mother Clare Matthiass, CFR, Katie Prejean McGrady, Fr. Malachy Napier, CFR, Mari Pablo, and Bishop Edward Scharfenberger.**

The NYS Board is excited to announce that we will be exhibitors at the **NYS Eucharistic Congress** in order to share with pastors, priests and all Catholic women the value of CDA membership.

We encourage each Court to work with their parish and see if they can arrange for a trip to the **NYS Eucharistic Congress**. This opportunity can have an amazing impact on our parishes, our courts and our families. We look forward to seeing you in Auriesville!

Additional information may be found at info@nyseucharisticcongress.org.

Here's to a New CDA Year

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT



My Dear CDA Sisters

The fall or autumn season is upon us. This time of the year the weather is starting to get cooler, kids are back in school, the leaves are changing, and you may be enjoying a tummy-warming pumpkin spiced latte. Some families are apple and pumpkin picking and pressing apples for a glass of apple cider. This is also a time to give thanks for your many blessings.

Hopefully you have had a restful summer and are gearing-up for the fall festivities, upcoming holidays, and the new CDA year. Some courts have had budget and calendar meetings to plan the new year. These tools help to prepare and carry out your meetings, events, activities, and fundraisers.

As I journey to different states and different courts, I am amazed by your leadership skills and membership participation. I've attended retreats, November memorial masses, and other spiritual gatherings. Each court has a special and unique way of celebrating an anniversary or other special occasions. Most of all, I wish you much success with your many fundraisers that help provide the means to support our CDA charities. Thank you for all you do for CDA.

With blessings and gratitude, Emily Guilherme

Let's Get To Work!

HAZEL ROBERTS, STATE TREASURER

I hope you all enjoyed the summer as much as I did. I am ready for the cool weather. The State Board recently attended the **State and Territorial Officers' Conference** in Arizona. It was an amazing experience to meet other State Officers from around the country. We had a lot of laughs with the New Mexico Board. The National Board prepared an agenda and presentations that were fun as well as informative. I came back with a new appreciation of what the National Board does for us. They worked tirelessly before the workshops began and throughout all the sessions. I am looking forward to bringing the information provided back not only to my local court but to the courts in the Diocese that I supervise.

"Spread love everywhere you go" -Mother Teresa

A Fire Is Lit

JUDY STERLING, 2ND VICE STATE REGENT

I hope you're excited, It's that time of the year already! Summer's hot wet weather is gone, and time for cool refreshing breezes coming in. Time for our Courts to reconnect with each other and celebrate our sisterhood.

In July, the **State Officers** and **Fr. Rob** attended the **State and Territorial Officers' Conference** in Scottsdale Arizona. The weather was extremely hot, but we all had a cool time learning, sharing, exploring, and making new friends. I guess you could say, **a fire was lit in all of us!**

We, as Catholic Daughters of the Americas, should be proud of our great accomplishments; but we must continue to carry on our rich legacy bequeathed to us and pass on an even better world to those who follow. We need to grow our membership and spread the news of our work for God, Church, and Country, in Unity & Charity. Let's remember, we are His eyes, hands, and feet.

I hope all courts are keeping up with their histories and scrapbooks, to pass on what their accomplishments have been, but to also show new members what the Court has been doing, and what can be done! Pamphlets, brochures from conventions, Share magazine, and Raising Dawn are great tools also. Let's spread the word of how we truly are **a sisterhood!**

I hope to see you this year at the Memorial Masses, Anniversaries, and court functions. Stay safe and healthy.

PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS DAY DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAINTS. I DESIRE TO JOIN IN THEIR COMPANY, WORSHIPPING YOU FOREVER IN HEAVEN. PLEASE HELP ME FOLLOW THEIR FOOTSTEPS, AND YOURS, JESUS CHRIST. PLEASE HELP ME TO CONFORM MYSELF TO YOUR IMAGE, SEEKING YOUR WILL IN ALL THINGS, AS THE SAINTS DID. PLEASE HELP ME TO DEVOTE MYSELF, AND ALL THAT I DO, TO YOUR GLORY, AND TO THE SERVICE OF MY NEIGHBORS. **AMEN.**



Families Matters

SYLVIA MURDOLO, STATE CHAIRMAN FOR FAMILY

Thanks be to God! I am the new NYS Circle of Love Chair for Family! Although I will miss being the Publicity Chair, I sense I will be much more at ease with the Family spoke on our Circle of Love. Let me tell you why...back in my home parish of **St. Frances Cabrini** in Coram, on Long Island, I am the part-time Religious Formation Coordinator for the lower grades. And who do you think I generally talk to? You guessed it: **families!**

Imagine the opportunities given to me, to not only offer our Lord Jesus to my beloved parish families, but the joy of being a Catholic Daughter to them as well. In a recent article, my predecessor **Mary Lynn Borst** mentions that we don't just have our family of origin and the family of today. We have also our work families, hobby/sports families and especially our Parish family. My work family is flourishing I think because I pray for them every day. They need prayer for sure.

I hope my Court is ready for all the *little* projects I would like to see done in service to our Parish families. Some suggestions are to sponsor a game night, a movie night, family rosary night, All Hallows Eve party for the kids or a babysitting night so parents can enjoy. Let's see...My elected position as Regent is not to demand but request with much sincerity and accept the outcome.

God bless you for reading this so far. May the rest of the fall bring you lots of faith, hope, and love. If you have an idea, call me and let's discuss it. I invite every Court to participate in the Circle of Love and spend time thinking of how to meet the goals of the Family spoke.

Enjoy the sisterhood of CDA

PATTI DRIVANOS, STATE SECRETARY

"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." —Matthew 18:20

Leaving summer behind and turning to fall is always difficult for me because I love the easy summer lifestyle and having pool time. However, fall means that there are more opportunities for Catholic Daughters to gather. My calendar is filling up with 100th anniversary celebrations, tricky trays, kickoff meetings and the **Diocesan Memorial Masses**.

When the State Board is attending an event or meeting, our group texts always include **can't wait to see you** and **looking forward to spending time with my sisters**. I believe one of the great benefits of CDA membership is the large sisterhood that I can learn with, pray with, work with as well as socialize, and play with. When I attended my first NYS Convention 10 years ago, I was the sole representative of my Court, but I was not worried because I felt I would be among kindred spirits. I was right because my new sisters opened their arms to embrace me and to show me the ropes.

Can you think of anyone who does not need good friendship and caring friends? This would be a great time to ask a friend to join you at your next Court meeting. I ask local officers to think about how to welcome these guests and how we can make these guests new members. It is a great idea to have a welcome packet available which could include a membership form, introduction of officers and their role, explanation about 50/50 or lucky bucks or any other things done at your meeting, your court calendar, information on your upcoming **Circle of Love** projects and your last newsletter.

Let us extend that warm loving CDA embrace to each of our friends!

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

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

NYS Seminary & Scholarship Fund

MARY LYNN BORST, STATE CHAIRMAN
MARIE C. CURRY SEMINARY & SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Hello dear CDA sisters of New York State! I am **Mary Lynn Borst, Past Regent of Court St. Pius X #1690, Levittown**, and the new **State Chairman of the Marie C. Curry Seminary & Scholarship Fund!** I am looking forward to this role that I was appointed to by our **State Regent Connie Breindel**.

Marie C. Curry was the **New York State Regent** from 1943-1956. She passed away on July 6, 1956 while attending the **CDA National Convention** in Portland, Oregon. In September 1956, the **New York State CDA Seminary/Education Fund** was officially changed to **The Marie C. Curry Seminary Fund** in her memory.

Each Court in NYS is given an annual assessment of \$3.00 per member, based upon the number of members it has as of the October Financial Review. The purpose of the fund is to provide financial assistance to the seminarians in each of the eight Dioceses in New York State as well as to secure the prize money for our multiple Education Contests.

Please be sure that your Court has allotted this expenditure in its annual budget; if not, bring it to the Regent's attention. This is not a donation to be voted on, it is an assessment due as soon as the bill is received. Thank you for your cooperation! Looking forward to 100% participation.



Mis Marie C. Currie, NY State Regent 1943-1956

It's A Three-Peat For Me!

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE CHAIRMAN OF EDUCATION

I hope this article finds all of you enjoying the last few weeks of summer. As I have alluded to in my article's title, I am honored and blessed to have been reappointed to the position of **New York State Education Chairman** by my third **Worthy New York State Regent (Dr. Heather Rave, Theresa Duran and now, Connie Breindel)**. In addition, our worthy **First Vice State Regent, Tina Bigelow** will be providing me with guidance.

For those of you who may be seeing my name for the first time and wondering about me, I have been a member of **Court Queen of Peace #1534, Wappingers Falls**, for 20 years. During this time, I have been **Vice Regent, Regent**, and am the current **Recording Secretary** of my court. I am also a member of the **Archdiocese Past Regents and Officers Chapter** and the **1903 Society**. I am the Co-Chair of the **Board of Directors of Catholic Charities Community Services of Dutchess County** as well as a **Secular Franciscan**. At my parish (St. Mary's Wappingers Falls), I am chair of the parish council, a lector and money counter. I am also a volunteer at **Birthright of Dutchess County's Fishkill office** for the past six years.

My goals for the next two years remain to continue to promote and increase enthusiasm and participation in the

Education Contests, spur interest among the Courts in education in general and provide answers to any of you who may have questions or concerns about CDA's education programs (I very much enjoy receiving your emails and phone calls. Hopefully, I have been able to help those of you who have contacted me in the past). I am so encouraged by all the education activities that have been yearly reported to me on the **Court Circle of Love Education Forms**. As the saying goes, **keep 'em coming!** My contact information is **mewoll@aol.com** or **(845) 297-5250**.

Speaking of "3s", this year we have three New York state winners in the **2023 CDA National Education Contests**, as recently announced by **Darlene Moritz, National Education Chairman**. Congratulations to all and their sponsoring Courts:

ART

Division 2, 3rd Place: **Andrew Arguiarro, Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756, North Merrick**
PHOTOGRAPHY

Division 2, 2nd Place: **Owen Dammacco, Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756, North Merrick**

Division 4, 3rd Place: **Adriana Pulido, Ct. Margaret Mary #768, Monroe**

REJOICE IN HOPE, BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION, BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER. ~ ROMANS 12:12

Why do we worship?

TERESA DURAN, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

Hi, my name is **Theresa Duran** and I am your new **State Chairman of Spiritual Enhancement**. If you don't know who I am, I wonder: where you have been? LOL. Seriously though, I have been a member of **Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport**, since 1984 and am currently the **Immediate Past NY State Regent**.

Lately, I have been thinking about why we worship, about why some people do not feel the need to attend worship services, about how people say they "don't get anything out of" going to church. In a world that's often tumultuous and ever-changing, the unchanging act of worship remains a cornerstone of our lives as Catholics.

So why do we worship? I know that I quote him a lot, but I heard Fr. Mike Schmitz put it this way: there are two main purposes of attending Mass: to glorify God and contribute to the good of the entire Church. Fr. Mike stresses that the Catholic Mass is not for the attendee—it is for God. We are not there "to get something out of it" or even to learn a lesson for the week. We go, or should go to Mass, simply to praise God.

As Thomas Aquinas said: God has no need for our worship. It is we who need to show our gratitude for what we have received.

Catholic worship is more than just routine rituals; it's an encounter with the living God. We should gather not out of obligation but out of an inherent desire to draw close to the source of all life and love. In worship, we find ourselves in the presence of the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer of all that is. Through our prayers, songs, and rituals, we bridge the gap between the human and the divine, inviting God into our lives and allowing ourselves to be transformed.

Our encounters with God in worship should inspire acts of compassion, justice, and service in our daily lives. The transformative power of worship should radiate through our actions, making us agents of positive change in a world in need of hope.

And, of course, at the heart of our worship stands the Eucharist, **the source and summit of the Christian life**, as **Vatican II** described it. In the simple elements of bread and wine, we encounter Christ Himself, truly present. In receiving the Eucharist, we become part of the divine mystery, sharing in the Body and Blood of our Savior.

Jesus Christ invites us to return to the *source and summit* of our faith in the celebration of the Eucharist. When members of the Church come to worship Him at Mass, we are participating in the sacrifice that Jesus offered for each one of us. In the true Jewish meaning of doing something "in memorial" we don't just remember Jesus' Last Supper at the Mass it is a true re-creation of the event, each time we celebrate the consecration

of the Eucharist, we are continuing His taking, blessing, breaking and sharing His body & blood with us.

St. Angela of Foligno said, *If we but paused for a moment to consider attentively what takes place in this Sacrament, I am sure that the thought of Christ's love for us would transform the coldness of our hearts into a fire of love and gratitude.*

Unfortunately, many Catholics do not truly understand or appreciate the power of the Eucharist.

The National Eucharistic Revival began on the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 19, 2022. It is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States by helping us renew our worship of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

As part of the **National Eucharistic Revival**, the bishops of the State of New York are hosting a state-wide **Eucharistic Congress October 20-22, 2023** at the **Shrine of Our Lady of the Martyrs** in Auriesville, New York.

According to the website (NYSEucharisticCongress.org) *The New York Eucharistic Congress will take place over 40 hours from 7 pm on Friday night through an 11 am Mass on Sunday. Pilgrims are able to come to part or all of the Congress. The Congress will feature inspiring talks from renowned speakers, Mass with the NY Bishops, Eucharistic adoration throughout both nights, opportunity for confessions, inspiring music and more.*

At the NY Eucharistic Congress, NY CDA will have a table in the exhibitors tent (only 50 exhibitors are being permitted at the event.) **First Vice State Regent Tina Bigelow** and **Second Vice State Regent Judy Sterling** have taken the reins for this event, if they need help, I'm sure they will reach out, but we can certainly support them, show our devotion to the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist, and promote CDA by attending the Congress and wearing a CDA shirt.

Let's be there with a wave of purple! Let's make an impact as women of service, let's make an impact as women of Spirit, let's make an impact as a loving sisterhood coming together in worship. Please check out the website and register to attend...it's free. I hope to see you there.

In a world where distractions abound and the allure of materialism can be overpowering, Catholic worship, particularly participation in the Eucharist, stands as an unwavering lighthouse, guiding us back to what truly matters. It reminds us of our ultimate purpose—to love and be loved by our Creator.

So, let us continue to gather in worship, not as mere spectators but as active participants in a sacred dialogue with God. Let us heed the call to worship with sincerity, humility, and reverence, for through worship, we forge an unbreakable bond with the Divine, and in doing so, we find our truest selves.

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once said, *The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white Host.*

AROUND THE STATE



Members Attend Bishop Andrzej's Lecture Series

Immediate Past State Regent Theresa Duran was joined by members from Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport; Ct. Bishop Kellenberg #1756, North Merrick; and Ct. Bishop McDonnell #1803, Babylon for part of the Liturgical Catechesis Series presented by **Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski, Auxiliary Bishop, Diocese of Rockville Centre**. Bishop Andrzej, the Vicar for Liturgy and Worship in DRVC has been presenting lectures explaining the Mass in a step-by-step way. These lucky members were blessed to experience his insights at Curé of Ars Parish in Merrick, NY, on June 20th. The Bishop was answering questions, surrounded by a large crowd after the presentation, so **Monsignor Frank Caldwell**, Pastor of Curé of Ars, graciously posed with the members.

SOS! Send Other Stories

Email tduran822@gmail.com to share your story with the state! Let us know about successful fundraisers, impactful events and community involvement. Please submit stories and photos before November 10th for our Winter Issue.



Keeping Busy, Busy, Busy

The Catholic Daughters of **Court Our Lady of the Lake, #2585, Patterson**, were very busy this spring and summer. The Court held a **Virtual Baby Shower** utilizing Amazon's Baby Registry in the month of May for the benefit of **Gianna House**, a Pregnancy Resource Center in the area for all women and their families facing unplanned or challenging pregnancies. They hosted a **Blood Drive** for the community on June 2nd and received 24 donations. Members worked at the **Beautification Event for Sacred Heart Church** on June 3rd with weeding, planting and mulching the grounds and cleaning inside the church. Then on June 6th, the Court hosted a **Meet the Candidates Night** for local residents—members felt it was their civic duty and to bring public awareness of the candidates, their platforms and their stand on various issues. All of the members' hard work paid off and events were very successful!

Stocking the Pantry

Waterloo Rotary sponsors the **ExtravaCanZa** each Memorial Day weekend, to help replenish local food pantries. **Court Theresa #806, Waterloo**, built the **CDA Circle of Love** for their entry. This is the third year they have participated. Pictured are **Linda Nightingale, Cheryl Buckley, and Regent Sara Ryan**. **Jackie Gantz** took the picture and was chair of the project.



Leadership in Action

TURNING VISION INTO REALITY

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

As State Chairman for this term, we have been asked to introduce ourselves to the membership in this Fall Rising Dawn article. Most of you know enough about me, so I will get right to the heart of the matter.

Leadership is not just a title; it's a process that involves guiding the courts in our organization towards a common goal. Effective leadership involves the ability to inspire, empower, and work towards change. We will explore the concept of leadership in action and look at the key attributes that will transform all or leaders so that on this journey our visions will become a reality.

Key Attributes needed to have Leadership in Action:

Clear Vision and Strategy: Effective leaders have a well-defined vision. All leaders must develop an outline with the steps required to achieve that vision.

Effective Communication: Communication is the cornerstone of leadership. We must articulate the vision and plans for it with clarity. We also need to be attentive listeners, open to feedback and ideas from our members.

Empowerment: As leaders of action, we empower the members by entrusting them with responsibilities. This not only fosters a sense of ownership but also taps into the diverse skills and talents of all our members.

Leading by Example: Leaders set the tone for the entire court. As leaders we need to exemplify the values and work ethic we expect from our members. This will foster mutual respect.

Adaptability: Leaders need to be adaptable. Being open to change and willing to adjust strategies is a crucial attribute of effective leadership.

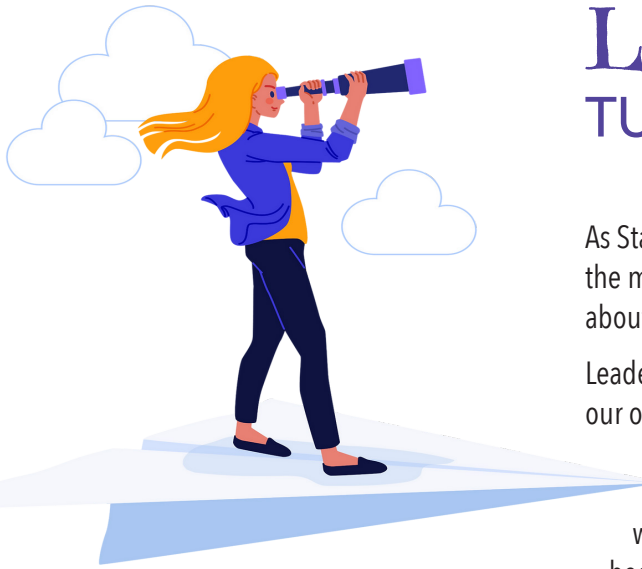
Problem-Solving: Leadership in action involves finding solutions to challenges. Remain composed under pressure and encourage brainstorming and implement innovative solutions.

Empathy: Understanding the needs, and concerns of all court members is essential for building strong relationships. By doing this you foster collaboration and loyalty.

Please remember to delegate as many tasks as possible to the members in the court. This will also lighten the burden for the Regent. We are on this journey together and we are continuously learning. However, we must recognize and celebrate achievements both big and small. This will boost morale and motivate our members.

During challenging times, which we have experienced in our courts, as leaders we need to provide stability by remaining calm. We need to be proactive in finding a solution. If you possess this type of leadership in action, progress and success in the court will increase and your visions will become a reality.

In closing, let us think about the words of Warren Bennis, *Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.*



The more the Holy Ghost finds
Mary His dear and inseparable
spouse in any soul, the more
active He becomes in producing
Jesus Christ in that soul and that
soul in Jesus Christ
St. Louis De Montfort-



OUT & about

WITH THE STATE OFFICERS



State and Territorial Officers' Conference in Arizona, July 20-23



**Visiting Ct. Infant Saviour #2780,
Pine Bush, at their monthly
meeting, August 6**



**Ct Patricia #195, Newburgh
110th Anniversary
Celebration, August 19**



**Ct. Père Le Moyne #733, Fulton,
100th Anniversary, September 16**



**Ct. St. Bernard #787,
Saranac Lake,
100th Anniversary,
September 17**

Calling All Girls

KATHY KNOTT, STATE CHAIRMAN OF JCDA/YOUTH

Today I offer a challenge to each one of our Junior Catholic Daughters and any teen girls invited by a Senior Court member to respond to this challenge. I am asking the girls to experiment with using some new creative skills; like calligraphy, knitting, crocheting, and hand stitching.

Take some time off from our computer skills. Even prayer books can be put aside for just a little bit and work on developing some new personal skill sets.

Your creative personal works of art could be used as a raffle prize for an event in your Court. Certificates or badges could also be issued to the girls who are able to accomplish a positive outcome using their new creative skill set.

You can also contribute ideas of other creative skills that can be added to the mix. I would like to see this challenge become a

reality; a project as we open our new fall season of meetings and close the project by reports and photos coming to me the week of Thanksgiving, before December 1st, 2023. E-mail, kknott639@gmail.com.

Junior and Senior Court members are naturally bonded in this sisterhood of women supporting women at all ages. Take a few minutes to think of some personal skill sets that you have. Have you used them lately? Could you take some time to teach them to another Catholic Daughter or Junior?

Following in the steps of Mother Teresa, although we may not be able to do great things as individuals, together we can do things with great love. Let's have an explosion of discovering and sharing our gifts, blessings, and talents for the greater good of all.



THANK YOU PROJECT

Our Statewide Family project is **The Thank You Project**. The purpose of the project is to collect thank you cards that will be mailed to service personnel in all branches of the armed forces throughout the year. We are asking every court to participate in this event.

Tips to remember when writing your letters: Be positive, upbeat and thankful for their service; Share a little info about yourself like hobbies, pets, etc; Talk about things happening around home like the weather, sports, etc.; A great way to start your letter is "Dear Service Member" or "Dear Friend"

Some things NOT to do when writing your letters: Kids' drawings are great but do not use glitter or any other crafting materials (googly eyes, puffy stickers, pipe cleaners, etc.); Do not discuss inappropriate things; Avoid politics or political statements; Avoid lengthy religious discussions but saying you are praying for them is great; Avoid making holiday-specific

cards, as the troops will be sent letters throughout the year. No items, trinkets or monetary donations for the troops will be accepted—please do not include any in your letters.

Do NOT include envelopes when writing cards—it will only slow down the sorting! Bundle letters in groups (typically in groups of 25, 50, 100 or 250 is best for a large amount). Please add a note to the top of your letters noting how many are in each bundle.

Place the letters/cards in a manila envelope or small box and send them to: **Judy Sterling, Second Vice State Regent, 604 Batavia Ave., Fulton NY 13069 before December 31, 2023.**

We will make sure the letters get into the hands of the right group to be sent to our military men and women in a secure and timely manner.

While we are happy to receive thank you cards from the members of your court, but this could be so much more. The event could be opened to Religious Education classes, scout troops, parishioners, even the community at large! What a great way to publicize CDA and your court while supporting our troops. You could serve coffee/juice/bagels. Or have a bake sale at the same time. Be sure to have your court banner prominently displayed and your members there to help adorned in their purple CDA shirts. This is a great opportunity to publicize your court while showing your patriotism and support for our military. Just make sure the emphasis is on The Thank You Project and the letters and cards that are being written.

CALL TO ACTION: LEARN, GROW, SPEAK, ACT

DAWN WEBER, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION

I am so excited to begin my role as Catholic Daughter Legislative Chairman for New York State! 2020 was a very eventful year for me. I married Bob Weber, moved to Saratoga Springs and joined **Court McLaughlin #422, Saratoga Springs**, just before COVID shut everything down. The move caused me to leave my job as a special education teacher in Oswego County after 23 years and begin a new one in Saratoga.

I was adopted at birth, after the birth of my oldest child, I found my birth mother to thank her for not having an abortion, and for her tremendous act of love.

State Regent Connie Breindel's focus is on growth, with the theme *Grow and Flourish, planted in the love of Christ*. I would like to focus on all of us growing in knowledge and courage, strengthening our voice to speak for the marginalized.

Have you heard of Operation Morning Star? To introduce you to it, I am going to use gems of information that can be found in the **Operation Morning Star Legislative Handbook** on the National CDA website.

Operation Morning Star is the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Legislative Program. Its mission statement is *The empowerment of Catholic womanhood to develop a Catholic Policy Agenda to reach out and speak out in the legislative arena for the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all mankind, in accordance with the principles of justice and peace.* (Handbook, pg. 2)

One of our obligations as Catholic Daughters is to become better informed on public issues, addressing the morals and human dimension while supporting

church teachings on human life, human rights, justice and peace. (Handbook, pg.3) We are a national organization of Catholic women united on national, state and local levels to act on our faith and become effective in the public arena. (Handbook, pg. 5) Operation Morning Star is focused on the legislative issues which have an impact on quality of life and family values. Our involvement is focused on legislative bills under consideration for passage into laws. (Handbook. Pg 3) As Catholic constituents, our vote and message should, and need to be, heard:

- Contact your legislators at the state and national level with an email, letter, or phone call. We have many resources to help you, including sample emails, letters and phone call scripts.
- Contact legislators thanking them or criticizing them for specific votes on the floor or votes taken in committee. This method is a confirmation that you are tracking their votes.

There are many other activities we can do toward becoming better informed on public issues and addressing the morals and human dimension while supporting church teachings on human life, human rights, justice and peace. We can:

Pray for our leaders, representatives, as well as those affected by the legislation, and those who serve them,

Inform and educate ourselves, other CDA members and members of our parishes on not only legislative issues, but those affected by the legislation, usually people who are marginalized, as well as programs that serve those affected by the legislation. Support them through prayer, advocacy, service and donations.

Speak out and when you do, be sure you know your subject. Do research and form a firm conclusion guided by your

faith and Catholic teachings.

Organize prayer services, for the unborn as well as for all other groups of marginalized people.

Participate in pro-life events such as 40 Days for Life, Prayer Vigils or the March for Life and in civic events by marching in parades or attending community events in your CDA shirt.

Sponsor voter registration drives or a Meet the Candidates event.

Invite elected officials to local Court meetings or host a parish information meeting, where they can discuss their position on issues.

Show your patriotism. As Catholic Daughters, we have an obligation and the power to actively support patriotism.

Wear red on Fridays. Catholic Daughters do this to Remember Everyone Deployed.

God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but a spirit of power, love and self control. (2 Timothy 1:7) I invite you to grow in knowledge and courage with me, strengthening our voice to speak for those who have no voice. We will not only be joining State Regent Connie Breindel in "growing and flourishing planted in the love of Christ". but continuing the legacy of **Immediate Past State Regent Theresa Duran** to *seek justice and love mercy" toward all and for all.*



How's Your Quality of Life?

PATTY NIOSI, STATE CHAIRMAN OF QUALITY OF LIFE

My name is Patricia (Patty) Niosi and I am a member of **Court Madonna #114, Port Jervis**. I joined our Court in September 2014. I held the office of **Regent** from June 2018 to June 2022.

I am an **Independent Title Closer** and have been in the Title Insurance industry for forty years. I am also an **Independent Pampered Chef Consultant**. I joined **Pampered Chef** thirteen years ago. You may recognize my name because I am the consultant running the **Building For The Future Pampered Chef fundraiser** for NYSCDA to raise funds this for a Habitat House build.

Where did the summer go? For me it went by quickly. I hope you all enjoyed it and are ready to start the fall season. Fall is my favorite season. I enjoy the cooler weather and changing colors. Each new season can bring so much new hope for us, individually and for our Courts.

What will this season bring for you? What will it bring for your Court? Most of that is up to **you**. Each of **you**. It's not up to just one person or just a few. We all need to take action and participate. As the saying goes, *many hands make light work*. That goes for all the projects that your Court might do.

You may have an existing **Quality of Life** project and are looking to do more. You may be looking for something all together different. Where do you start?

How about starting with **you**? Yes, start with yourself. What would be meaningful to you? What type of project would have you excited about participating in?

The **Quality of Life** (spoke) is defined in **Tools of the Trade** as **social awareness**. *Issues of our national program are the heart of our ministering to the needs of all peoples. We are called to reach out with compassion and support, to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow, and sickness.* This would be something that is valued as a positive addition to everyday life.

Quality of Life encompasses, among other things:

- Family Life Issues
- Family Health Issues
- Worldwide Issues
- Health & Wellness
- Restoration of Family Values
- Community Issues
- Protection of our Earth
- Personal Identity Theft

Here's to a productive year for all our Courts. I look forward to hearing what new projects you choose or come up with.

"I have strength for everything through him who empowers me" Philippians 4:13

We Need To Spread The Word

SUSAN STALZER, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hello to my NY State CDA Sisters! I'm Susan (Susie) Stalzer your new State Chairman of Public Relations. I feel so blessed, excited and even a little scared to take on this role! I have some really big shoes to fill with our former chairperson, **Sylvia Murdolo**, moving on to other great things. Before I tell you about me, I do want to express my thanks to Sylvia for doing an outstanding job in this role. I also want to wish **State Regent Connie Breindel** and the new state board all the love and luck in their new leadership roles.

So, about me: I was born in Brooklyn, and lived in Brooklyn and Queens in the earlier part of my life. In the mid 1990's I moved to Long Island—specifically Levittown, the first suburb! I have an adult son who is a teacher and lives outside my home, so I'm an empty nester! I have worked in the marketing and public relations field since 1991, and currently work full-time doing just that.

I've been a Catholic Daughter for only 5 years, and I'm currently serving as Vice Regent of **Ct. St. Pius X, #1690, Levittown**. *Hint, hint to new members, you don't need to be a life-long member to step up!* I enjoy hiking, reading a great book, cooking a scrumptious Sunday dinner, drinking lots of red wine, and of course laughing! Who doesn't enjoy laughing! And, I can honestly say my CDA sisters in my home court and I, do a **lot** of that. The Lord's work does not have to be boring, dull or somber. In fact, in Romans 15:13, the Bible says: *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

In the months ahead, I look forward to reading all about what's happening in your court in your newsletters. Be sure to include as much as you can, nothing is considered trivial or unimportant. All that we do in CDA, and in our local courts, is to bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Make sure to publicize your works in your church bulletin and local newspapers too

And lastly, if you have any questions or want to reach out to me on just about anything, I'm here! My email address is: susiegirl2868@aol.com

PROTOCOL (I think everyone just rolled their eyes!)

Now that courts are over the fear of COVID and ready to celebrate with Anniversaries, Fund Raisers, and Memorial Masses with other courts throughout the whole state, we thought this would be a perfect time to draw your attention to the **Tools of the Trade (TOTT)**, Section 8, Special Functions.

Can you think of a particular wedding or anniversary party that impressed upon you as being beautiful, detailed orientated and so much fun? What was it that made it stand out from all of the others?

Do you want to do this for your court's Anniversary, Fund Raiser, or Memorial Mass this year? Well, we have many tips to guide you in that direction...

Let's start with the Invitations:

The State Board is very honored to be invited to these events and try really hard to attend each event as a full Board. To have a successful event, invitations need to be sent as soon as possible so not only the State Board, but other courts can put it on their calendar, schedule it around their own personal events, and plan their travel arrangements to decide if an overnight stay is necessary. Unfortunately, some of these events fall on the same day; making the State Board must decide which event they will be able to attend. To prevent this in the future, we ask that you provide **State Regent Connie Breindel** the date of your event as soon as you know so that she can post it on the **NYS Catholic Daughter Website** in the **Yearly Calendar of Events**. When we receive the **Save The Date** invitations almost a year before the event happens, it really sets the tone as to how much planning is going into this event and how important it is to the court that the invited guests attend their event.

What about a Courtesy Committee:

They are the first point of contact for your event whether at church, hall, or restaurant; they start with a warm welcome, introductions, and guidance to prevent chaos or that feeling of "do I belong here?" Seating arrangements show respect

and formality. Salutations and introductions allow the guests to know the names and position of their leaders.

Speakers:

Determine who you would like to speak and ask them *prior* to the event so they are prepared. Introduce the speaker by providing their background, interesting facts, brief biography, and end with their title and name. If you choose to have more than one speaker, begin with the lower ranking officer proceeding up to the highest ranking officer present.

Ceremonial Dress Code:

Please refer to **TOTT, Section 8, VIII**, for every **Dress Code** detail for National, State, and Local Officers, Color Guard and Banner Bearers. **Worthy Officers of Catholic Daughters**: it's more than our dress code when we wear our robes—dress or skirt underneath, white shoes, 11 inches from the floor, small earrings—it's the pride that goes with wearing it. Robes are to be zipped up when on or carried over the arm when walking from your car to the church. Never let anyone see your robes flapping in the wind!

And more:

Also in this section, you will find detailed information as to how to process in, recess out, and the required seating arrangements. (Under **Processionals, Seating Arrangements, and Recessionals**.) There is nothing more beautiful and dignified than to see a Mass with a procession of robed National, State, and Local Officers.

Lastly, a *note* not listed in the Protocol section of TOTT, but something worth mentioning – if you have been to convention and have enjoyed the **Friday Night Fun Night**, you know that there is something about having a good band or DJ with a wide selection of music to bring that party to the next level with dance and laughter. It might just make your event stand out over all of the others.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Send only your **Habitat for Humanity** donations to New York State care of Special Collections Chairperson:

Rosanne Kowalski
200 Martin Avenue
Blasdell, NY 14219

Make check payable to **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** with **Habitat for Humanity** on the memo line.

All other **National Projects and Charities** donations should be mailed directly to the National Office: 10 West 71st St., NY, NY 10023. A form is on the NY State website cdanys.org in the Resources Tab, Forms Library.



Members of New York State CDA including Past NY State Regent/National Director Mary Impellizeri, First Vice State Regent Tina Bigelow, Past State Regent Heather Rave, Past NY State/Past National Regent Helene Shepard and Immediate Past State Regent Theresa Duran, joined National Director Susan Hicks, Second Vice National Regent Connie Dronetter, First Vice National Regent Essie Walker, National Regent-Elect Susan Moné and National Secretary Treasurer Darlene Moritz at the NY S.O.A.R. Gala on September 13, 2023.

Important Dates

- Sep 30 **Birthday of State Secretary Patti Drivanos**
- Oct 7th **Past Regents Chapter of the Diocese of Rockville Centre Memorial Mass & Luncheon**
- Past Regents Chapter of the Diocese of Ogdensburg Memorial Mass & Luncheon**
- Nov 1 **All Saints' Day**
- Nov 2 **All Souls' Day**
- Nov 4 **Past Regents and Officers Chapter of the Archdiocese Memorial Mass**
- 100th Anniversary Celebration Court Ave Maria #832 Kings Park**
- Nov 11 **Veteran's Day**
- Nov 23 **Thanksgiving Day**

National Catholic Daughters of the Americas® are holding an exciting and innovative fundraiser:

A TRIP TO THE GRAND OLD LADY IN NYC

You can win 4 days/3 nights for 5 women to enjoy NYC with accommodations at our National headquarters, travel & food vouchers, and Broadway tickets included. Donations for this opportunity are just \$50. That means just \$10 each for you and 4 friends to enter for the chance to spend an exciting **Girls Weekend in The Big Apple**.

See www.catholicdaughters.org/girls-trip-to-grand-old-lady for details and entry forms!

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.

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, 2024



Traveler's Prayer

*Matthew, Mark, Luke & John,
bless the wheels we ride upon.
Bless the driver and the driven.*

*Don't let us see an accident, don't let us cause
an accident, don't let us be in an accident,
and keep all those bad guys away. Amen*