



# The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

March 2023

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Visit [CDANYS.org](http://CDANYS.org) and [CatholicDaughters.org](http://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](http://youtube.com) and search NYS Catholic Daughters.

## A Journey of Rediscovery

My Dear Sisters,

As I sit here on Saturday, the week before Lent is to begin, I ponder many things: how will our family week-long trip to El Salvador go (we leave at 3 am tomorrow!); where will my Lenten journey lead me this year; what will I do with all that *free time* once my term as State Regent ends?

These are all things yet to be known, yet to be discovered. There are always new things out there to be discovered, things we don't yet know; yet somehow we often neglect the things we *think* we do know and so we need to **rediscover**.

I have visited El Salvador before – over 30 years ago – much has changed there since then and so now it is time for me to rediscover the beauty of my husband's homeland.

I have taken the Lenten journey before, but perhaps last year was my the one that impacted me the most. I gave up listening to true crime podcasts during my drive to work. I needed something to listen to, so I began with the audio book of **Matthew Kelly's Rediscover Jesus**. I thought I *knew* who Jesus was, He was my friend, my Savior, my God, but the book touched me in such a way that I felt I needed to share it with you all this Lent.

The book focuses on the fact that while we might know a lot *about* Jesus, His story, His life and death and resurrection, how much to we really *know* Jesus. So I have decided once again to Rediscover Jesus.

I am recording myself reading a

### THERESA DURAN, STATE REGENT

chapter of the book each day and posting it on our **Catholic Daughters NY State Facebook page** so we can take this journey together, as sisters in Christ.

That's one of the best things about CDA: taking the journey together, living as sisters in Christ, sharing our laughter and our tears, being there for one another. Maybe you don't know that about CDA? Maybe you *think* you know CDA, maybe your neighbor, or daughter, or sister, or fellow parishioner thinks she knows CDA...but what if the truth is that you (and she) really only know *about* this wonderful gift we call membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

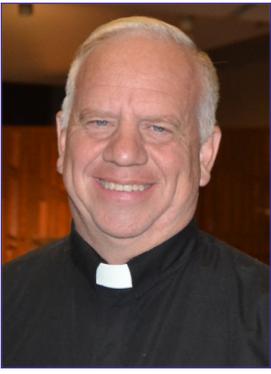
And so, I invite you to take some time this Lent, this Spring, this year, to **Rediscover CDA**. Forget what you think you *know* about us as an organization, as a State, even as your local Court and rediscover what CDA is meant to be about, what CDA can do, what CDA can be. This is why we keep saying how important it is to come to convention (and Officer Training, and Pray & Play, and PRC meetings and Memorial Masses).

Read our Mission Statement (it's on the back cover). Is that what you do? Is that what your Court does?

As I always say, we are more than a book club, we are more than a PTA, we are more than an altar society: we are a sisterhood. My dear friend Helene and



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# Joy & Fear

REV. RALPH SOMMER, STATE CHAPLAIN

Have you ever been fearful yet overjoyed? This was the state of mind of the women who went to the tomb of Jesus that first Easter morn. The **overjoyed** was easy to understand since they believed what the angel

of the tomb told them in Matthew’s gospel: “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said.”

But despite the angel’s counsel to not be afraid, they **were** still afraid. Why? Might they be afraid that the good news they heard wasn’t true? Might they be afraid because the angel told them to go to Galilee to tell the apostles that Jesus was risen – and that perhaps they wouldn’t believed? Might they be afraid because even the good news of resurrection doesn’t take away all the other concerns of life?

Consider a student who gets news that she was accepted to her college of choice, away from home. Overjoyed! Yet afraid, as she must give up the relative safety and predictability of her family and old school and now she’ll be in a new world. She’ll be tested, not only by the college curriculum, but by her own ability to stay the course, to live with new people, to find out if she has the discipline to handle the responsibilities of

being a college student.

Consider someone who had alarming health symptoms and is told my her physician that it is nothing serious and that the condition is manageable. Overjoyed! Yet afraid that the doctor might have missed something. Or that she has to make some unwelcome lifestyle changes to become healthy again. Will she be up to the challenge?

You see, good news is good **but** – and there is usually a **but** – there are consequences to that news. The consequences aren’t frequently bad, but they do engender fear and anxiety since they take us into a new way of living.

The ultimate Easter question for Jesus’ disciples is, “Do we celebrate Easter with joy **and** fear?” If we only do the alleluias without the fearful flip-side of the good news, then perhaps we haven’t really experienced an Easter this year. In other words, it’s possible to celebrate Easter by simply recalling the wondrous event that took place 2000 years ago. That kind of remembering is hardly transformational. But if we remember that the resurrection of Christ is a reality for us too: we come out of the tombs of selfishness, of judgmental attitudes, of apathy, of crankiness, of impatience, etc., then there’ll be some healthy fear. Fear that we might go back into our tombs again. Fear that others won’t put up with our new resurrection attitudes.

So I wish you both joy and fear this Eastertime. And may you meet the risen Lord as the women and apostles eventually did.

Continued from front cover

I had a conversation recently about the passion we have for this organization and what an important part of our lives it has been. Now, I don’t mean to say that each of you needs to make CDA the #1 priority in your life, but I do invite you to rediscover the importance, the beauty, the majesty of CDA and dedicate yourself anew. Dedicate, yes, that’s the word we all used in our pledge of membership: *dedicate ourselves to the work of this organization, to foster unity and charity, among all men and women through the love of God.*

Let’s do that, let’s rediscover the passion we might have once held for CDA, let’s rediscover the reason we became members, let’s rediscover the best that CDA can be (not a gossipy coffee klatch of women that just want to tell everyone what to do and how to do it).

Attend the meeting even when you are tired, because you are a member. Go to the wake of the

member you didn’t know, because she is your sister. Come to the convention (or workshop, or retreat), because you deserve to build the friendships, and grow closer to each other, and center yourself on God as a Catholic Daughter of the Americas.

In order to rediscover, we need to put away our preconceived notions and start fresh. Review you Court projects and activities, toss out what hasn’t been working, try new things, turn the world upside down! Rediscover Jesus, Rediscover the Catholic faith, Rediscover CDA!

As for me, and all that free time I will have (LOL) I can say that my husband is looking forward to rediscovering a social life with me, but he will always know that CDA has and will always hold a special place in my heart and on my calendar forever.

In Unity & Charity,



**CONNIE BREINDEL,  
FIRST VICE STATE REGENT**

I have always thought that my favorite season is Fall because of all the vibrant colors that you see on the trees, especially when you are traveling around the state; but when I realize what Spring is all about, it is my favorite season. Now don't get me wrong, I love all the beautiful colors of Fall; but really, there isn't much more to Fall than those colors. Think of a peacock that just walks around showing their feathers that is what I think of when I think of Fall. Yes, they are beautiful but there really isn't much more to them than their feathers. They don't seem like they would ever be a member of the family like a dog or cat would.

We all know that winter is way too cold, dark, and dreary; summer is often too hot and drains our energy to get things done; the "dog days of summer." The only other option would be Spring and when you really think about it, Spring has substance. It is much more than a peacock with its feathers.

Spring is a time for growth and the renewal of nature. It is when things come alive. Trees and bushes become green again. A time for wildlife to be born and to hear birds chirping. We see color once again and not just the oranges, reds, and browns of fall but a whole rainbow of colors in wildflowers that just seem to grow all over. With the flowers and bushes also comes the smell of spring. The days get longer, and the air gets warmer. It is a time for new beginnings. Life springs anew!

Spring isn't just for new beginnings in nature; it is the time for new beginnings for us as Catholic Daughters too. On a local level, last spring new officers were elected to lead their courts and this spring elections will take place on the state level during our NY State Convention. It is important to come and be part of the new beginnings by helping to elect those that will lead our state for the next 2 years. I hope to see you there!

## **Report of the 2023 NY State Nominating Committee**

**The following slate of officers  
has been proposed for the  
2023-2025 term of office:**

**State Regent:  
Connie Breindel**

**First Vice State Regent:  
Tina Bigelow**

**Second Vice State Regent:  
Judy Sterling**

**State Secretary:  
Patti Drivanos**

**State Treasurer:  
Open**

Thank you to **Chairman Karen Rave** and committee members **Elaine Klesic, Linda Manchester, Joan Oram, and Pat Ziegler**, for giving their time, talent and dedication to our order and its future.

As you can see, there is an opening for the office of **State Treasurer**. If you feel called to serve the state in this, or any other, capacity you may run from the floor. Please see the Bylaws for how to submit the proper paperwork.

We need a full Executive Board to continue the mission of the Catholic Daughters in New York State. We need people to step up!

We will also be electing the **2025 Nominating Committee** at this convention, please consider running for this important committee.

# Don't Give Up!

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT



My Dear Catholic Daughters of New York,

Lent is upon us! Can you believe it? It's already time to begin fasting, giving alms, and pray even more. The "normal" thing we usually hear is to "give something up" for this Lenten liturgical period. But, since "normal" is no longer a part of many of our lives, I'm going to suggest something we hear too rarely: instead of giving up something for this

Lent, let us turn our eyes upon what can be added to our spiritual walk, so we may bring God's love to others and bring ourselves to His altar and join more authentically in Communion with Him.

This can look different for each of us; perhaps it's serving in a homeless shelter, food pantry, or pro-life center. It could also be helping an elderly neighbor that needs assistance with household chores they're no longer able to do by themselves. Perhaps by cleaning out your closets and giving to those who may not have enough to wear, we can clothe Christ in disguise. Any one of the Corporal Works of Mercy that can bring the love of Christ to our world is an excellent addition to your Lenten journey and your life!

Let us begin living lives of gratitude and not of entitlement. Too often, we become entrenched in the things we've been given our entire lives and expect that as the norm when, in fact, we should see all of those as blessings that we need to share with grace and humility; perhaps that is the best approach for our Lenten journey: Grace & Humility. Serve Him daily with grace and humility; serve each other with grace and humility. If you need examples of this, look no further than your National, State and Local Boards. Jesus Christ calls His apostles to be servant-leaders, and as your servant-leaders we are called to serve first and lead second. I call upon all of our National, State and Local Boards to put serving others first and ourselves last.

I encourage you to also increase your own spiritual journey by daily scripture study or beginning a Lenten Divine Mercy Chaplet. Create a nightly tradition with your family by praying a Rosary together each night and teach your children how to pray and love Jesus Christ and His mother. Our world is desperately seeking meaning, and our kids are where we need to begin.

We need to start something good in ourselves that continues long after this Lenten journey is over. May the Mercy and love of God be upon you and your families as we travel from Lent into Holy Week, and may we experience the Resurrection in our families, friends, and workplaces.

In Unity & Charity, Emily

## CDA Give Away

Regents: Watch for mail from **Convention Raffle Chairman Diane Meore** with the tickets we need your court to purchase/sell to support our convention.

The price for each ticket is only \$.001. A \$500 First Prize, a \$300 Second Prize and a \$200 Third Prize will be awarded. Winners will be chosen at the **NYS Biennial Convention Appreciation Banquet** on Saturday May 6th.

## CDA Convention Journal

Also included in the mailing mentioned above and with this Newsletter is a **Convention Journal Adversing Contract**. Please take this opportunity to send greetings, congratulate officers, lend your support, or advertise a business.

Deadline for ad and booster submissions is March 20th.

## St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center

Our Convention Charity this time around is the **St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center** of Ogdensburg, founded by our own Past State Chaplain Fr. Scott Seymour. Please be generous to this worthy cause.

Cash or checks made out to *St. Joseph's Outreach* will be collected at the convention or can be sent to St. Joseph's Community Outreach Center, PO Box 159, Morrisonville, NY 12962

# Take A Chance

TINA BIGELOW, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

As you might know, in July 2022, I was promoted to a **Chief Clerk** position at the **Clinton County Surrogate's Court**. When I knew this position was available, I had no intentions of applying. I was working in my own county, 10 minutes from my home, really enjoying the comforts of my job and surroundings of 19 years. However, when they found out I was not applying, the two ladies who worked in Clinton County Surrogate's court office, strongly encouraged that I do so. Their words of praise and encouragement started my journey of change.

While discerning whether I wanted to commute 35 minutes, spend more on gas, put more miles on my vehicle, leave the co-workers that I so enjoyed, and give up the comforts of my current job, I kept coming across a quote, "If you are comfortable, you are not growing or living up to your potential."

This job opportunity came at me exactly one year after I accepted the nomination to the CDA State Board, a position that I had turned down 2 other times because of fear of failure and giving up the comforts of free time. An offer that was made to me in the same way – with faith, trust, encouragement and praise by friends and Sisters in Christ that I have known since 2003.

When reflecting on how much enjoyment, growth, and feeling of accomplishment I received by accepting the blessing of serving as your Second Vice State Regent (instead of the failure I feared), I realized that this career path was yet one more journey that God was sending me on. (I have to say that the beginning of my new career journey has not been as easy as my CDA journey, but it certainly has been fulfilling and enriching.)

Both journeys have put Matthew 28:20 into perspective for me: "And Jesus came and said to them... 'behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

What I have come to realize in the past 7 months is just how much I needed this change in career to grow spiritually, for if I did not have these challenges, I would not have reached out for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I used to start my day with a cup of coffee while playing Candy Crush on my tablet; now, I enjoy a cup of coffee while I nurture my soul listening to the lessons of **Fr. Mike Schmitz' Catechism in a Year**, and then enjoy my second cup of motivation, inspiration, self-control, strength, endurance, and courage as I listen to **Fr. Joe Roesch's** podcast **Saint Faustina's Diary In A Year**.

The trials and tribulations that St. Faustina endured could only be conquered through her complete trust in the Mercy of Jesus, spoken to her in deep and devoted prayers, and when in doubt, through her Spiritual Directors. These diary entries express the importance of ***be still and know that I am God*** and ***go as God commanded you***. She has said many times throughout her diary that she can be of more help in heaven than she was down here, and I for one can attest to that and feel that it was not an accident when I started to listen to her profound messages that Jesus inspired her to expose in her diary.

I thank **Past National Regent Helene Shepard** and **State Regent Theresa Duran** for their leadership and creative ideas to nurture our spiritual growth as this journey with St. Faustina would not have happened if I had not participated in our Pray & Play Retreats.

I heard a quote by Charles R. Swindoll on my journey to work: "Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it; and I found a whole new purpose to that longer drive. I now have 25 minutes to enjoy my third cup of motivation as I listen to the profound insights of speakers such as Joel Osteen and Charles R. Swindoll.

Ladies, I end my article by stressing the importance of attending the 58th Biennial NYS Catholic Daughter Convention. We have not had a State Convention in 4 years and I can't wait to attend.

Fortunately, I was able to enjoy the Pray & Play Weekends with many of you these past 2 years, and I look forward to enjoying this Convention with all of you, I think it will prove to be a Pray N Play on steroids.

If there is a challenge of any sort that is keeping you from making that final decision to come, remember that Satan is the Master of Doubt and Excuses who puts obstacles in our lives, especially when we have the chance to enhance our relationship with God and His people – people who share the same spiritual journey of faith, hope, and love. that you are on.

It is amazing what God has already given me by my ignoring the "rational" reasons that I should not do something and by my overcoming the doubts that put obstacles in my journey of growth and purpose.

As Pope Francis said in a message he gave on December 15, 2022, "Some might think that to be a good Christian, it is necessary above all to reflect and meditate. Instead Jesus says "Go! It is a decisive verb because it transforms the disciple into an apostle, it makes him a missionary."

# Lent A Time To Care For Family

MARY LYNN BORST,  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

I hope everyone was able to enjoy some good family time this past Christmas! Even though COVID and other germs are still around, with some good practices, we can still gather together again. Thank God! Having to be apart from family and friends was one of the hardest parts of 2020-2022! Let's continue praying that things will improve as we approach Spring.

Speaking of Spring, I hope you are all having a good Lent so far. It's a beautiful season to do some soul searching and real communicating with our Lord.

As I am writing this article, I also participate in some daily bible journaling. Today's scripture was Psalm 37:27-29: *Turn from evil and do good, that you may be settled forever. For the LORD loves justice and does not abandon the faithful. When the unjust are destroyed, and the offspring of the wicked cut off, The righteous will inherit the earth and dwell in it forever.*

Such a perfect scripture for a Lenten reflection. Even though sometimes there is heartache and turmoil in our families, the Lord is ready to forgive. He reminds us of his continued mercy and asks that we show that to all of our brothers and sisters. Our personal families, as well as our neighbors, co-workers, church families, and all we come in contact with. It's not always easy, but we can strive to get better and better at it each day.

Wishing you a beautiful remainder of Lent and hope to see many of you at our upcoming New York State Convention in May!

# Just A Few Thoughts About Convention

**A CDA convention can be a rewarding, exciting, enjoyable event—but let's not forget that it is also hard work.**

Every court needs to be represented at our convention so that we can all speak and listen, pray and learn, gather and share—like the family of sisters that we are, we need to come together occasionally to keep our bond strong. I think we all learned during COVID how hard it is to be separated and how joyous it is to gather together again.

The reason for convention is **to handle the business of the state:** we hear reports, we make decisions, we learn new strategies. The business sessions are rather formal, run in strict adherence to Roberts Rules of Order and while it might seem tedious at times, there is a beauty in the structure and formality.

For these business meetings, all attendees are expected to dress in casual business attire. This is not the time for sweats, jeans, or your gym clothes, though it is also not the time for stiletto heels. We do want you to be comfortable.

**Layering is key!** I suggest a skirt or slacks outfit with a short sleeved shirt and a jacket or sweater. With 100+ women in one room, it will be hard to get the temperature to a setting that will please everyone.

During the evenings, more casual, comfortable attire is appropriate for visiting with friends; now is the time for sweats, shorts, or even PJs—or don your swim suit and take a dip in the indoor pool.

Friday, as always, is RED Day. **RED: Remember Everyone Deployed.** Catholic Daughters resolved many years ago to wear red on Fridays in support of our military.

Friday night is Fun Night. Since the date is May 5th, our theme is a **Cinco de Mayo Fiesta!** Wearing Mexican style clothing or costumes is the best way to join in the fun. But be ready to dance, there will be a DJ!

Saturday's Appreciation Banquet is a **semi-formal affair.** Dress as if you were a guest at a wedding.

I look forward to seeing you all in Saratoga Springs in May!

# Delegation: The Key To A Leader's Success

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

Think of the best leader you have ever met – perhaps in CDA; your first boss; maybe even a high school teacher. What type of leader were they? How did people see them? However, they stand out in your mind. Why?

As a good leader you need to identify your style. Not all leaders are the same...nor should they be! Ask yourself: What type of leader are you? What type of leader do you want to become? Is it very much like the one you have admired?

As a leader there is often one major problem you face: you want to do it all. The answer to this problem is: delegation! This skill is necessary, currently in our courts since it is time to submit the **Circle of Love Forms**.

The general steps for delegation are clear:

- Define the task at hand. (I.e. Filling out the Circle of Love Forms)
- Make sure it is SMART – Specific, Measurable, Agreed, Realistic, Time sensitive
- Identify the best members for the job. (One for each spoke of the Circle of Love.)
- Explain the goal to be achieved.
- Discuss how the task should or could be executed.
- Agree on a deadline.
- Keep communication open.
- Provide feedback after completion.

Utilizing this skill will lighten the burden for the Regent. It will allow members of the court to participate and they in turn will have ownership. Delegation is how great leaders boost their influence, while they are empowering others. Just follow the steps above to succeed. You will lighten your burden and get your To Do List completed with help from your members.

Reminder: Please send me your completed Circle of Love Form for Leadership.

***“If you want to do a few small things right, do them yourself. If you want to do great things and make a big impact, learn to delegate.”***

***– John C. Maxwell, American author.***

# The 2025 Nominating Committee

One of the important issues that will be taken up at the 2023 NY State Convention is the nomination and election of five members who will form the **2025 Nominating Committee**. Could you be one of those five people?

Serving on the Nominating Committee is an honor, it is a serious position, it is one by which the future of our organization can be shaped.

The women elected to the **2025 Nominating Committee** will be responsible for reviewing the submitted applications for NY State Officers for the 2025-2027 term of office. They will need to put their personal feelings aside while using their good judgment and desire to keep CDA in NYS strong as they deliberate and discuss all candidates.

The meeting is done in an on line forum during the month of February 2025. Any member in good standing can be elected. If you feel called to serve, please ask someone to nominate you when we call for it on Thursday during convention.

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## MARIE C. CURRY FUND

ELAINE KLESIC, STATE CHAIRMAN

The winter weather is three quarters finished and what a winter it has been. I spent four days at my daughter's house so we could spend Christmas together. Then we had a little earthquake here in West Seneca. What a surprise! Well spring is coming. Soon Easter will be here. Alleluia!!

By this time, all the Courts should have received their invoices for the Marie C. Curry Fund. As we all know, this fund is used to help our young men who are studying for the priesthood, our Education contest and our scholarships.

This an assessment to each Court based on your membership at the September audit. It does not need a Court vote for approval. I hope we can fulfill our obligations before we get to convention. A few courts have not paid their assessment for 2021. Please check with the Treasurer to see if this was paid.

I hope we are all healthy and I will see representatives from a lot of our Courts. Happy Easter to all.

# Prepare The Way

PATTI DRIVANOS, STATE SECRETARY

## There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Spring is upon us (let's hope!) and it is time for gardeners to prepare for the growing season. Here are some of the preparations you and your Court could make for a bountiful harvest.

- 1. Invite new members.** Give them the gift of sisterhood which we know stands the test of time. Check on members who haven't been to a meeting in a while. What is going on with them to keep them from attending.
- 2. Learn from others.** Read the *National Quarterly*, *Share Magazine*, and *Rising Dawn* to see what others are doing. Make sure to distribute them at your meetings and highlight some of the things that caught your interest.
- 3. Do it right.** Put into practice the things learned at the **Local Court Training** which was held around the State. If you didn't attend, make an effort to attend future ones. Talk to other Courts and see what they learned.
- 4. Get to know CDA.** Take time to go on the National ([CatholicDaughters.org](http://CatholicDaughters.org)) and NYS ([cdanys.org](http://cdanys.org)) websites to see what is new. Dig into the *Tools of the Trade*. Check out the **NYS CDA Facebook** page!
- 5. Pay the bills.** Make sure your financial obligations have been met – has your Court paid their National and State dues, Marie C. Curry assessment, court contributions to the National Projects and Charities? Remember all Court checks need 2 signatures.
- 6. Make plans.** Review your court calendar and plan the projects your Court will do for the Circle of Love categories. This will make it easier to complete the Circle of Love forms next year.
- 7. Gather with your sisters.** Talk to your Court members about our **State Convention** which will be held May 4 through 7 at the Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs. Join with us as we celebrate the past 2 years and what will be planned for the future. The State Board has traveled around the state to share **Pray & Play** retreats, attend **100th Anniversary Celebrations**, present **Local Court Training** and participate in the **Diocesan Memorial Masses** for our departed sisters. There have been many opportunities to laugh, share and make new friends. Don't experience FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out) but plan to be with us.

While this list isn't extensive, it is also not meant to be exhausting. As Regent, you do **not** have to do it all by yourself. Some of these suggestions could be handled by other Court officers and you should ask for volunteers to be the Circle of Love Chairmen.

Wishing each of you a Blessed Easter and many opportunities for a spring filled with love, laughter and sisterhood.

# Stay Connected!

Remember to send dates for Court or Past Regent's Chapter events, activities and celebrations to First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel so she can add them to the calendar on line at [cdanys.org](http://cdanys.org)

Please remember to check the calendar 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.

## 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 attend or are missing 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.

# COME ONE, COME ALL!

**The New York State Convention is open to any and all members of Catholic Daughters of the Americas.**

As long as you register, you may attend the business meetings. The hotel package provides rooms and meals for all attendees, or for those who will travel each day, Commuter Meals are an option.

Even if you have not been elected as a Delegate or Alternate or cannot attend our convention for any of the business sessions, you are more than welcome to attend one of the nighttime events, especially if you are close to Saratoga Springs.

**Wednesday Night, we have our Off To The Races Welcome Night**, a night of fun virtual horse racing. Join us for dinner and the races; no knowledge of horse racing or gambling needed.

**Friday is our Cinco de Mayo Fiesta.** Our NYS tradition it dress in costume and dance the night away. This year is a Mexican theme: there will be a Mexican Buffet, a cash bar and a DJ will spin some great tunes for us to enjoy. Courts put on skits and sometimes we end up in a sing-along! So pop on a poncho or get gussied up in a traditional *huipile* and join in the fun.

**Saturday is the Mass of Installation of Officers followed by our Appreciation Banquet.**

Mass will be celebrated at **St. Peter's Church**, 241 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, at 2:30pm, with **Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger, Bishop of Albany**, as the main celebrant. What a wonderful thing it is to experience a State Installation and see all of our CDA Officers in their many colored robes.

That evening will be a semi-formal banquet at the Holiday Inn, dinner with a cash bar and the winners of our raffles announced.

Members, spouses and friends are welcome to join us for all of the above events. Simply fill out and submit the **Commuter Meal Form** to reserve your spot.

We look forward to seeing you all in Saratoga Springs as we celebrate CDA in NYS!

## NYS CDA Scholarships

**"Every flower has its own created beauty, splendor of the rose, the lily's whiteness does not deprive the violet of its scent nor lessen the daisy's charm."**

**—St. Therese of Lisieux**

The coming of Spring brings with it a little more light each day, beautiful flowers and cute fluffy yellow chicks and other baby animals.

The new life springing up all around us makes us yearn for the longer days of Spring and Summer, brings a smile to our face, a lilt in our step and an excitement to the High School students who eagerly await graduation and moving on to new experiences in college. It's an exhilarating time to be a Senior in High School, awaiting the acceptance letters to the many colleges applied to, and then the decision as to which is the best fit for them.

Then there is the money...the most important decision. How to afford to pay for college. Thankfully, the **New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas** can help with that!

Each year the NYS Court offers three \$1,000 Scholarships to deserving graduating seniors. This scholarship is open to any daughter, son, or dependent of a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of New York State. The member must be in good standing for at least two years or a charter member of a new court and has attended a minimum of three business meetings during the current year. The applicant must be accepted to a 4-year school.

The 2023 NYS CDA Scholarship application is now available on the NYS CDA website [cdanys.org/forms](https://cdanys.org/forms)

Please spread the word to all members who have children/dependents eligible to apply.

Scholarship winners will be awarded according to the written essay and record of applicants' service to the Church, their school, or their community. Winners will be announced at State Convention. All interested applicants should follow scholarship instructions with care and submit their application to:

Joanne Leonardi  
32 Johnson Avenue  
North Kings Park, NY 11754

by the April 7, 2023, deadline.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me 631-379-1585.

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# AROUND THE STATE

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## Ct. Patricia #195 Holds Baby Shower

Court Patricia # 195, Newburgh, recently held their Annual Baby Shower. Some members crochet gorgeous outfits and blankets. Many members bring diapers, wipes, ointments, baby clothing and so on.

These items are donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Society which then gives these out at no charge to new mothers. They try to get a complete layette set for each new mother that utilizes their services. If supplies permit, they also give out necessities for toddlers as well.

The members of Court Patricia are very generous and look forward to helping these mothers and their new babies every year.



## Ct. Our Lady of Charity #2355 Holds Fall Fundraiser

After two years of not being able to hold the annual bazaar 18 members of our Court Lady of Charity #2355, Flushing, sponsored a very successful bazaar in October 2022. Held in the church basement with over 20 tables of items brought from home – household items, clothing, electronics, toys, jewelry, sweets and much, much more – members were excited to bring bargains to members of the parish and the neighborhood.

All who attended were able to purchase much needed items at a great price while contributing funds to the church and other charities.

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## SOS! Send Other Stories

Please submit stories and photos by May 20th for our June issue. Send ti to [tduran@optonline.net](mailto:tduran@optonline.net) to share your story with the state! Let us know about successful fundraisers, impactful events and community involvement.



## Ct. Msgr. Baker #1043 Donates Gift Bags To Priest Home

Members of Court Msgr. Baker #1043, Lackawanna, and local Columbiettes donated Christmas gift bags to the 14 retired priests who are residents of **Bishop Head House** in Buffalo. Pictured are **Melanie Saunders, Regent Mary Anne Jackson**, a member of the Columbiettes, **Deacon Dan Golinski, House Administrator** and **Susan Potaczala**. What we gave was up to each of us, just give a bag. We dropped them off before Christmas and just before the blizzard hit.

## Ct. Stella Maris #822 Hosts Bake Sale

Another returning event: **Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport**, was able to hold its **Trick or Treat Bake Sale** once again this past fall. Members baked Halloween themed goodies for the crowds after Mass. Dozens of cookies and cupcakes were purchased by the children as they went off to Religious Ed classes. The Court also sold hot coffee, tea, bagels and crumb cake for people to enjoy. Pictured are **National Director Mary Impellizeri, Past State Chairman Mary Blaney, Treasurer Stacey Guzman, Vice Regent Gerry Dean, Regent Cathy Cavanagh, Pat Eklund, State Regent Theresa Duran** and **Elizabeth Cavanagh**



## Ct. Queen of Peace #1534 Kicks Off 2023 In Style

**Court Queen of Peace #1534, Wappingers Falls**, kicked off 2023 with a luncheon meeting on Saturday, January 14 at **Longobardi's Restaurant**. All members enjoyed a lunch of their own choosing and ended with a piece of the delicious cake pictured. **Regent Marsha O'Neill**, arranged for **Dave Brown, Grand Knight** of the **Wappingers Falls Council of the Knights of Columbus** to be our guest speaker at the meeting. Our Court will be collaborating with the Knights on a **Pancake Supper** to be held on Mardi Gras (Shrove Tuesday), February 21. This will be our first collaboration with the Knights and we are looking forward to a successful event with the proceeds to be given to our pastor, **Bishop Gerardo Colacicco** for use on Church projects.



# What's In A Name?

We have over 80 Courts in NY State and most with unique and individual names. Let's learn more about where some of our Courts got their name.

I invite you to submit the story of your court's name for our next issue. Who or what was the inspiration behind the name and why the Charter members felt drawn to ask National to approve that name.

Please prepare 2 or 3 paragraphs similar to the one's below and submit them to me by May 20th.

## Court Margaret Mary #768, Monroe

HELENE SHEPARD, PAST NATIONAL REGENT

**Court Margaret Mary #768, Monroe**, has been based at **Sacred Heart** in Monroe since 1922. At the time of the institution there was **Sacred Heart Church**, it only became the **Sacred Heart Parish** in 1957.

The charter members realized that **Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque** was devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Being a women's organization, the Charter Members voted to follow in her footsteps honoring the Sacred Heart by requesting the name of **Court Margaret Mary**.

**Margaret Mary** was chosen by Christ to arouse the Church to a realization of the love of God symbolized by the heart of Jesus. Her early years were marked with sickness. She became a Visitation Sister at the age of 24. After three years she received her first revelation. Christ requested that his love for humankind be made evident through her. She did what she was asked of her.

She died at a very early age of 43 while being anointed. She was canonized in 1920, just two years before Court Margaret Mary was instituted. She is the patron of devotees to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Her feast day is October 16th.

Our court distributes beads for the **Chaplet to the Sacred Heart** which we use at our meeting with a program to learn more about **Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque**. We also have movie night with the story of her life.

We proudly celebrated our 100th Anniversary last year and hope to spread the message of CDA and the name and mission of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque for many years to come.

## Court Genevieve Walsh #918, Goshen

JOY PALAZZOLA, REGENT

**Mrs. Genevieve Walsh** became a member of the **Daughters of Isabella** in 1904. She was the first District Deputy appointed in Manhattan. She was elected NY State Regent in 1905.

At the **Daughters of Isabella Biennial National Convention** in July 1913, **Genevieve Walsh**, was elected **Vice Supreme Regent**.

In 1915, Genevieve H. Walsh was elected **Supreme Regent** and held the reins of the order for eight years. On April 9, 1921, at the ninth biennial convention, the decision came to change the organization's name from the **National Order of the Daughters of Isabella** to the **Catholic Daughters of the America**. Supreme Regent Walsh resigned her position in July 1923; she passed away on November 3, 1923.

During her reign, The Great War loomed; **Supreme Regent Genevieve Walsh**, had taken the organization through some dark and threatening years, but such years served to strengthen and sustain the members, and give them a broader base from which to expand their energies across the nation. She traveled extensively in the interest of the order and was instrumental in organizing many new courts.

When our court was established in November of 1924, the ladies of Goshen decided to honor Genevieve Walsh but naming their newly established court after her.

## Court Queen of Life #2664, Commack

MARION MYLODNIA REGENT

When this court was founded in 2013 we were instructed to come up with three names for National to choose from. Our parish is Christ the King, however, the Charter Members wanted to honor Mary, the Blessed Mother of the King in our name. The three names that were proposed were **Lady of Victory**, **Lady of Grace**, and my personal favorite **Queen of Life**.

Though not an "official" Marion title, Queen of Life was a favorite because our **Chaplain, Fr. Joseph D'Avonzo**, was a champion for Life. I, myself served as co-chair of the parish Pro-Life committee and our members are devoted to the cause of the unborn.

When National approved the name **Court Queen of Life**, I informed Fr. Joe, he was very pleased, and so were the members. Our Court is very proud of our name.

# Stay Informed!

EILEEN PETERSON, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION

We in New York State must pray and act on two critical bills in the Assembly and the Senate.

Bill S 2445/A 9995) is **Assisted Suicide** or sometimes called **Medical Aid-in-Dying**. The New York State Catholic Conference warns, *This bill is particularly dangerous for some of the most vulnerable citizens of our state, the elderly, the poor, the under-insured, people in medically under served communities, people with disabilities.* Please, call your State Senator and Assembly person as **their constituent** and say NO.

Second dangerous legislation for New Yorkers is the **Equality Amendment** which will be put on our ballots on November 5, 2024.

The attorney of the Archdiocese of New York, Ed Mechmann, writes: *The Equality Amendment, however, goes way beyond those previous amendments. Instead of just adding “sex”, it would add a long list of protected categories: “ethnicity, national origin, age, disability... sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy.*

Most of those are already amply protected under current laws. Both the federal government (thanks to the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Bostock v. Clayton County*) and the state government have already said that homosexuality and gender identity are protected under statutes dealing with sex, and there’s no doubt that a decision to have an abortion would fall under that too.

It’s important to know that this amendment applies not just to the government, but any entity acting in concert with or on behalf of the government. That would likely include any organization that receives any kind of state funding, or is licensed by the state – such as all our Catholic institutions like schools, charities agencies, and hospitals.

So, for example, if a person objects that one of our institutions won’t support their gender transition or their abortion, we could be sued. It’s a license to kill religious agencies that dare to object to gender ideology or abortion.

Lastly, we are an Easter people. We know that after the Crucifixion, the Resurrection came. **God wins!**  
**Happy Easter!**



Bishop Joseph Coffey carries a crucifix as he prays and witnesses to LIFE at the 50th March for Life in Washington, DC, on January 20, 2023

# The Stations of the Cross

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

As this edition of *The Rising Dawn* is being sent out, we are in the season of Lent and anxiously awaiting the Easter message (“He is Risen; He is Risen indeed!”). During this time, many Courts (mine included) pray the *Stations Of The Cross* typically led by their Court chaplain or priest of their parish. Here are some facts about the Stations you may be aware of. Hopefully, these will help you add to your knowledge and appreciation of the rich history of the Stations.

- Catholic Churches are not the only Christian churches that have depictions of the Stations of the Cross. The Stations may also be found in Lutheran, Anglican/Episcopalian and Methodist churches.
- Catholic faithful might say the Stations without the actual 14 images, such as when the Pope leads the Stations around the Colosseum in Rome on Good Friday.
- The earliest use of the word *stations*, as applied to the accustomed halting-places along the Via Sacra in Jerusalem, occurs in the writings of an English pilgrim, William Wey, who visited the Holy Land in the mid-15th Century. His writings described pilgrims following the footsteps of Christ to Golgotha.
- In 1521, *Geystlich Strass* (German for “spiritual road”) was published with illustrations of the Stations in the Holy Land.
- During the 15th and 16th centuries, the Franciscans began to build a series of outdoor shrines in Europe to duplicate those in the Holy Land. The number of Stations at these shrines (often found in small buildings) numbered between 7 and 30, with 7 being most common.
- In 1686, **Pope Innocent XI** permitted the Franciscans to erect stations within their Churches. In 1731, **Pope Clement XII** allowed all Churches to have the Stations provided they were erected by a Franciscan priest with the consent of the local bishop. The Pope fixed the number of stations at 14. In 1862, this ruling was modified to allow all bishops throughout the Church to erect the Stations themselves without the intervention of a Franciscan priest.
- The original 7 Stations were: Jesus takes up his Cross; Jesus falls the first time; Jesus meets his Mother Mary;

Veronica wipes the face of Jesus; Jesus fall for the second time; Jesus is nailed to the Cross and Jesus is laid in the tomb.

- To provide a version of the Stations more closely aligned with biblical accounts, **Pope John Paul II** introduced the *Scriptural Way Of The Cross* on Good Friday 1991. In 2007, **Pope Benedict XVI** approved this set of Stations for meditation and public celebration. These Stations are:
  1. Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane
  2. Jesus is betrayed by Judas and arrested
  3. Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin
  4. Jesus is denied by St. Peter 3 times
  5. Jesus is judged by Pilate
  6. Jesus is scourged and crowned with thorns
  7. Jesus takes up His Cross
  8. Jesus is helped to carry the Cross by Simon, the Cyrene
  9. Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
  10. Jesus is crucified
  11. Jesus promises his kingdom to the repentant thief
  12. Jesus entrusts Mary and St. John to each other
  13. Jesus dies
  14. Jesus is laid in the tomb.
- Although not traditionally part of the Stations, the Resurrection of Jesus is sometimes included as a 15th Station.
- During Lent, each Station is traditionally followed by a verse of the *Stabat Mater*, composed in the 13th Century by Italian Franciscan friar **Jacopone da Todi, OFM** of Umbria. He was an early pioneer of Italian theater and was one of the earliest scholars to dramatize Gospel subjects.

By the time this is printed, the Education Contest and Circle of Love reports will have been submitted and in the process of being judged. Thanks to all Courts who sent in education entries and/or their Circle of Love education reports. Stay tuned for this year’s winners which will be announced at the upcoming NYS Convention (May 3rd-7th). I hope your Court is planning to attend!

Please feel free to contact me ([mewoll@aol.com](mailto:mewoll@aol.com) or 845-297-5250) if you have any education questions. If I do not have an immediate answer for you, I will be sure to get you one.

God bless you. Continue to stay well and safe.

# Be Grateful For Strength In Body, Mind & Spirit

KATHY KNOTT STATE CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH/JCDA

In this new year, let us remind the youth we encounter and the girls in our Junior Courts to celebrate each day in **body, mind, and spirit**.

Starting with being grateful for the unfathomable gifts God chooses to put on us, we call to mind the number of people and experiences we encounter daily. Within a few minutes we will be filled with joy because we can recall the nice people we interact with. Perhaps they ask for our help because they too acknowledge our gifts and abilities. We may be humble and overlook our strengths. The Lord meant for us to accept and use our gifts, strengths and blessings.

We can begin by being grateful for the strength of our **body**, in just the energy we have to awaken renewed, ready to do daily chores (as mundane as they may seem.) How we approach tasks says a lot about our Lord's direction within us. Do we put a smile on our face? Yes before makeup, we need a smiling foundation! Chin up, shoulders back, we go into motion to achieve the tasks placed before us.

Some days may be a complete joy, others perhaps a challenge, even a trudge. The importance is not what comes to us but how we react, how we respond, what we make of things is our valued outcome.

So how is our **mind** important in all this? If you think you can, then you can do anything! Thinking you can makes all the difference in the world in the energy you exude. Remember the story of the train that said "I think I can" all the way up the steep train tracks? Listen less to what others say about risks and chances of failure and talk yourself into trying it all. Take every opportunity. Just go for it! If you fail you will still have experience as an outcome. That will serve you again later in life.

Then we have the **spirit**. Believe in yourself because God does not make junk. You were made to perfection with the spirit of Jesus. Look at what He achieved without a computer, modern transportation nor a cell phone. Your spirit has all the tools and makings to effect and change the world, at least in the place you are in right now.

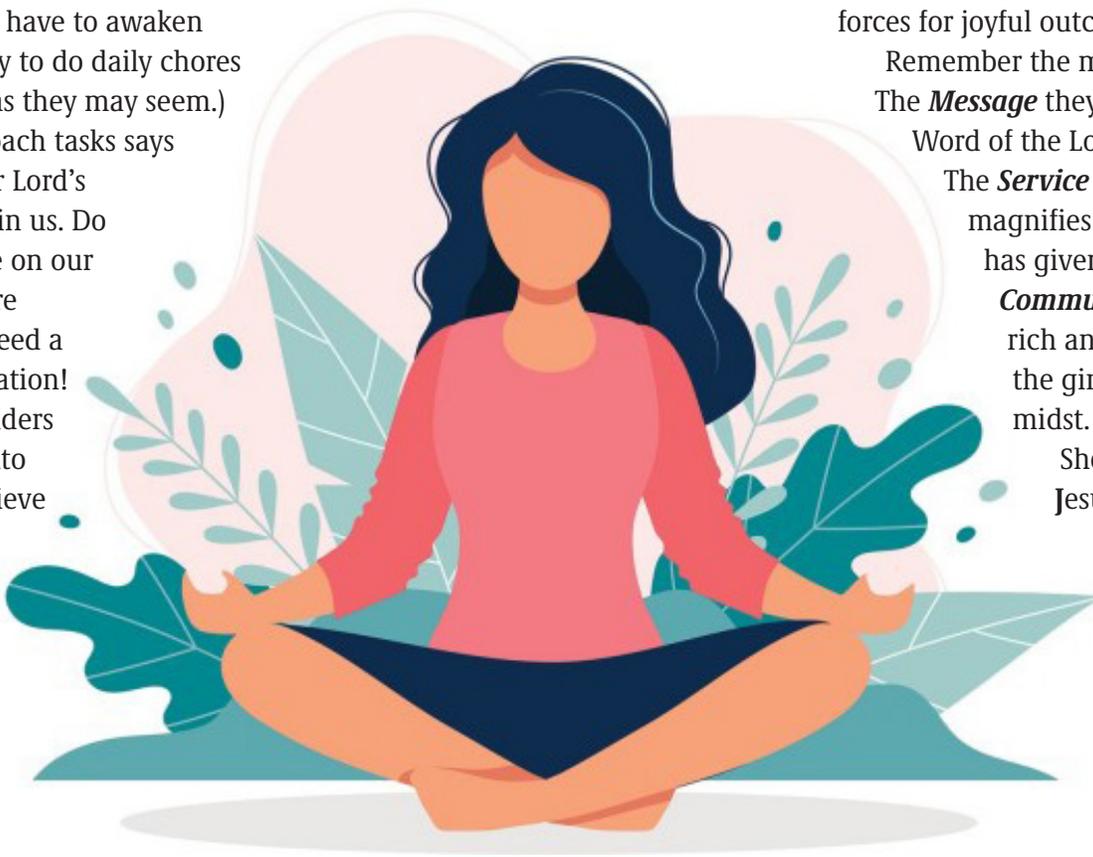
Remind the young people that we deal with that as they combine **body, mind, and spirit** to meet challenges they should (as we all should) be encouraged to know others are doing the same.

Plans are being considered to gather JCDA of New York State and other invited youth for a few days of local retreats in the near future. Then we can join strengths and forces for joyful outcomes.

Remember the motto of JCDA: The **Message** they carry is the Word of the Lord in action.

The **Service** they render magnifies the gifts God has given them. The **Community** has grown rich and strong with the girls in their midst.

Show the world;  
Jesus Can Do  
Anything;  
Juniors Can  
Do Anything



# These Are The Days Of Our Lives

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

Many of you will remember the soap opera that always began, “as sands through the hourglass, so are the days of our lives.” And so it is. For most of us older folks, the days and years are passing too quickly. The seasons change too rapidly, the holidays come and go in what seems like minutes. And here we are currently in Lent and Easter is April 9th. The March winds are blowing out the cold and dreary days of winter and blowing in the first inklings of spring. As Lent begins we are in evening darkness. Easter arrives and we chant, “Christ our Light” at the Easter vigil. Endings and beginnings. We are truly an Easter people who follow the Risen Lord each day of our lives. We believe that the pain and suffering of our crosses have new meaning because of His pain and suffering on the cross and that we will rise again because of His resurrection. Blessed Easter.

Remember also that we have been given a special day of Mercy from the Lord and that is Divine Mercy Sunday on April 16th. As recorded in St. Faustina’s diary, Jesus promises “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy

are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.”

I will be praying the Novena of Divine Mercy from Good Friday, April 7th every evening up to and including the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday on the NYS Facebook page at 8pm. Please join me or watch the rerun. And please read more about preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday by going to [www.shrineofdivinemercury.org/observing-divine-mercy-sunday](http://www.shrineofdivinemercury.org/observing-divine-mercy-sunday)

Are you going to attend the State Convention in Saratoga Springs? Please make every attempt to do so. It is a wonderful experience and you will meet so many fabulous ladies there. My first convention was in 2019 when four officers of our Court attended. We participated in workshops, performed a skit on Fun Night and learned so much about Catholic Daughters... the people and the organization. We put faces to names, shared laughs over meals and ice cream after Mass. We came home joyful and joy filled from the experience. Besides wouldn’t you want to get a glimpse of the racetrack from the Carly Simon song “You’re so Vain”? You know it, (all together now) “Well I hear you went up to Saratoga And your horse, naturally, won.” While the track isn’t open yet, you can ride past it singing and then play Night at the Races at the convention on Thursday night. Come on, join us! Court McLaughlin wants to say, WELCOME TO SARATOGA SPRINGS!

# Our Lenten Journey

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

As we begin our Lenten journey this year, many of us are thinking about what to give up or stop doing for 40 days. I have been thinking about later sunsets, and flowers blooming. So many different ideas have come to mind. I was praying and as usual, I got lost in my thoughts about Jesus going into the desert for 40 days and what maybe he went through. I thought about Our Blessed Mother Mary, did she really know what was coming, and how did she accept it? I have been struggling with things over my years, but I knew I could pray and Mary would be there, and I was reminded that tomorrow is not promised. Today is a gift, and we should cherish the Present that God gave us. I cherish my Catholic Daughter sisters, and know that we have each other’s back, and that is a great comfort!

I read a quote from St. Augustine. *What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrow of men. That is what love looks like.*

Have you thought about attending the New York State Convention in May? Many of us have been working hard to make the convention a spiritual, informative, fun experience. Have you thought about running for State Office, State Chairman or DD? We have many opportunities for you and we may not know you are interested, or even if you are not sure, talk to us! We have a wonderful State board, and State Chairwomen. Do not wait for tomorrow, for tomorrow is never promised. Many hands make like work.

I pray we all have a spiritual Lenten Journey, and be filled with love and understanding. And rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord.

I look forward to seeing you in Saratoga Springs!

# THANK YOU PROJECT

MARY LYNN BORST, STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

Our Third Annual Thank You Project was a huge success! Over 3,500 cards were sent to **A Million Thanks** from the following Courts:

Ct. Madonna #114, Port Jervis  
Ct. Rita #264, Cornwall  
Ct. St. Bridget #265, Ilion  
Ct. Sacred Heart #370, Oyster Bay  
Ct. McLaughlin #422, Saratoga Springs  
Ct. Mother Admirable #592, Dannemora  
Ct. Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw  
Ct. Margaret Mary #768, Monroe  
Ct. Ave Maria #832, Kings Park  
Ct. Queen of Angels #869, Hicksville  
Ct. Genevieve Walsh #918, Goshen  
Ct. Nativity of our Lady #931, Brockport  
Ct. Msgr. Baker #1043, Lackawanna  
Ct. Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell  
Ct. St. Pius X #1690, Levittown  
Ct. Father John P. Mooney #1921, Mahopac  
Ct. St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville  
Ct. St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram  
Ct. Queen of Life #2664, Commack

If your court is not on the list, why not make plans now to get on there next year!

## The Protocol of Unity In Charity

CHARILLA S. CONNER, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PROTOCOL

This Spring, let us consider the protocol of Unity in Charity. One synonym for protocol is courtesy. Take a moment, consider what it means to be courteous.

In this joyful time of Easter and Spring, we are encouraged to show courtesy to a wide variety of people we are in contact with whether we are at Church, out shopping, driving here and there, to our family. As you wait your turn for Confession, as you are examining your conscience, do you also pray for those who are also waiting and for your Priest? As you are experiencing the Triduum, allow yourself the joyful courtesy of patience & prayerfulness of this blessed time. At my Church, we contribute 40 cans in 40 days to support the local food bank for Lent. Unity in Charity. We are united in these most special times of our religious celebrations.

It is a joyful time, this Resurrection of our Lord. It is a special time to extend the courtesy of charity and being united as Catholic Daughters and as Catholics. Courtesy = Unity in Charity.

I sincerely pray that you are going to this years' State Convention. The camaraderie is why we belong to a group of Catholic women. The work of the order is on full display there and just joyful to be a part of. You get to represent your Court with all the other Courts across our amazing State. Unity and Charity on full display. As the song says: They will know we are Christians by our Love, by our Love; and they'll know we are Christians by our Love.

**National Regent Emily Guilherme has announced a**

### **12 Day Pilgrimage to Portugal & Spain / Oct 23- Nov 3, 2023**

**Just \$4,400 from JFK**, this all-inclusive pilgrimage has been designed expressly for members of CDA, your friends and family.

This journey will bring us to sites across Portugal and Spain, immersing us in our faith and their culture. We will visit sacred sites near where Fatima Our Lady has appeared. We will also travel to Santarem. Santiago de Compostela, , Coimbra, Pontevedra, Nazare, Oporto,

Lisbon & more. All the stops along the way are sure to boost our faith and bring us into communion with each other.

Come experience the beauty of the region and the hospitality and charm these countries present.

Start planning, and begin praying for this incredible pilgrimage. for more information visit: [www.lpjp.org](http://www.lpjp.org) or call **LeAnn Brand** at **678-878-3053**

# A Crown Of Thorns

CHRISTINA R. PACKWOOD,  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF QUALITY OF LIFE

The time of Lent and Easter is upon this world we live in and since childhood, many of us are still doing the same practices of fasting, praying, and preparing for the most important and joyous Easter Sunday. Holy week is our going from sackcloth to being joyous. When Good Friday roles around and we relive the Crucifixion of Jesus wearing a crown of thorns, or every time I do the Stations of the Cross , I go into something I call the Holy Week Trek to Calvary comparing every event with today's world, each thorn on His head becomes every thorn I pray about daily -----abortion, child trafficking, drug addiction, poverty, illness, child abuse, senior abuse, war, starvation, neglect and the list of thorns goes on and on. The solution is me, you, everyone who believes Jesus died on the cross with all these thorns. He is the only one who can take them away and save this world. We need to pray diligently "Jesus I Trust In

You", so His resurrection and our Easter is filled with kindness, love, sharing love for God with others and giving of ourselves to help our families and community to grow in faith.

You can always get a chocolate egg this time of year, but you only get one life to strive for the most important thing in your life--- Eternity with Jesus.

Well, after Easter, Guess What???? It will be New York State CDA Convention time in early May. Have you been to Saratoga Springs lately, it is still a real cool place. Those of us who have been to a state convention in New York state will tell you what a great time they had. Meeting new Catholic Daughters, enjoying fun times, learning new things about CDA, help change bylaws, changing some rules, adopting new ones and having a lot of fun at the cool festivities and be able to take all this info back to your home courts for

sharing. Hopefully every court in New York will find a way to send a delegate or help a member in some way to attend. It is truly a great time for all of us to enjoy a few days or even one day of camaraderie of CDA joy and fun with your fellow Catholic Daughters.

We celebrate our Blessed Mother at a beautiful mass of Installation of our soon to be new NYS officers. What a wonderful day of joy to be witnessing our NYS court that is departing from their strong God filled service to our courts and see the new officers sworn in, to fill the shoes of leadership for NYS courts. They will share their knowledge and caring to keep CDA alive in our state court and we the members are guided by them to fulfill the needs of our local courts, parishes, and communities to improve Quality of Life for all those we serve.

Hoping to see many new faces in Saratoga at the NYS CDA Convention. Enjoy your prayer filled Lent and Easter. May the Risen Lord Bless all of you and your families. May His light shine upon us and Bless us always.

NATIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS NATIONAL NEWS

## ANNOUNCING: FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT

Together with **Retreat Director & National Chaplain Fr. Shenan Boquet**, the **National Board** is sponsoring a deeply spiritual retreat.

### Put Your Nets Out Into The Deep: Moving Mountains

Friday, Nov. 10 Sunday, Nov. 12, 2023

Starling/Ending with lunch at noon on both days.  
Spirituality Life Center 7100 E 45th St N,  
Bel Aire, Kansas 67226

\$300.00 includes room & meals. Limited to 65 retreatants.  
See the website at [CatholicDaughters.org](http://CatholicDaughters.org)  
for more information or to register for this exciting event.

commit  
YOUR WAY TO THE LORD:  
Trust  
IN HIM, AND HE WILL ACT.  
PSALM 37:5

# Last Call for National Projects & Charities

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Hopefully you are receiving and reading the email edition of *The Rising Dawn* before Lent has even started. It seems we just completed the celebration of the birth of Jesus, and we are fast forwarding thirty years to His adulthood. May you all enjoy a spiritual renewal and many graces throughout the prayerful Lenten season, with increased awareness and appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for our eternal happiness.

As I reminded you in the last edition of our State Newsletter, April 7th is the last date I can receive donations for the National Projects and Charities for this fiscal year. That means they have to be in the mail to be me BEFORE that date, IF you want to be credited at the State Convention.

You might want to think about that at your March meetings: if you wish to donate and haven't done so. I know COVID probably still put a hold on fundraising, just to let you know for **National Projects**, approximately 20 courts have donated over these past two years, compared to the 43 that donated the two years prior. Once again the gentle reminder that your financial resources are to be used for charity, not as a

savings account. CDA is tax-exempt because we are a charitable organization, and you should be using that money for charities, not stockpiling.

Your Budget Committee are aware of what they have in funds when budgets are prepared. Our **National Projects and Charities** should be planned for.

The National Board asks that \$20 should be donated, if possible, to each of the five **National Projects**. Our **National Charities** could be done on an alternating basis, at whatever amt could be afforded. I do realize some courts operate on a shoe string, and that would be noted if your books were audited.

New York is the only State that collects that money through a Chairperson first for those various charities. Our combined effort shows, please make sure your court does it's part.

If you have any question as to if you have or have not given over these past two years, feel free to email me at **lmudduck@aol.com**. (That's a lower case L before the m, not a number 1)

God Bless, stay well and I hope to see you at the convention in Saratoga Springs!

## Be Sure To Submit Your Newsletter For The 2023 National Newsletter Contest

SYLVIA MURDOLO, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Hello dear CDA New York State! We are fast approaching the March 1st deadline for the next Newsletter Contest. I am beyond looking forward to seeing your entries. As stated in the application itself, please send them to me at 25 Apex Drive, Coram, NY 11727.

If you don't have the application handy, you can find it on the New York State CDA website. Once you get to the website (cdanys.org), Under the tab **Resources**, navigate to **Forms Library**. We are under 2022-2023 National Contests **Newsletter Contest**.

Be sure to use pages 5-6 to guide you in the process of your local court newsletter submission.

Once my independent judges read all submissions, I will have winners and score sheets. The timing is perfect as winners will be announced at the New York State Convention in Saratoga Springs.

I got a fair amount of questions last year about Categories and Divisions. On page 3 of the application form, it specifies that Categories are about Court size. Divisions on the other hand are about the number of newsletters

that are published every year. If you publish 5-12 issues, you are Division II. I was surprised to find some courts saying that they are Division I.

Never entered before? I'm here for you! We received 13 entries last year...c'mon NYS, don't hesitate to send your entries. Let's get the number up to 16 or even 20. This is a very fair contest, my non-CDA judges are tops. As always, please feel free to send me your monthly Court Newsletters to **encourager0307@gmail.com**. How I treasure reading them all.

Some of the most joyous words in the bible were spoken to women:  
He is not here, He is risen!

May the Risen Christ fill your heart with joy, bring you hope and bless you with love this Easter Season.

With love and admiration,  
Fr. Ralph, Theresa, Connie, Tina,  
Patti, & Judy



## Important Dates

Feb 20th	President's Day
Feb 27th	Birthday of First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel
Mar 1st	Newsletter Contest Submissions due to Sylvia Murdolo
	Website Contest Submissions due to Connie Breindel
	First Place Education Contest Submissions due to State Chairman Mary Westerman
	Circle of Love Forms due from Local Court to State Chairman
	St. Anne Award Nominations due to Kathy Knott
Mar 15th	Early Registration Forms due to Patti Drivanos
Mar 31st	Circle of Love Results due from State Chairman to Connie Breindel
	Delegate/Alternate Sheets due to Theresa Duran
Mar 22nd	Ash Wednesday
Mar 17th	St. Patrick's Day
Mar 19th	St. Joseph's Day
Apr 2nd	Palm Sunday
Apr 6th	Holy Thursday
Apr 7th	Good Friday
	Hotel Reservations Forms due to the Holiday Inn
	All Registration Forms due for the 58th Biennial NYS Convention to Patti Drivanos
	Commuter Meal Reservation Forms due to Tina Bigelow
	Proposed Bylaw Amendments/Resolutions due to Theresa Duran
	National Projects and Charities Donations due to Anna Lucia.
	NYS Scholarship Applications due to Joanne Leonardi
Apr 9th	Easter Sunday
Apr 16	Divine Mercy Sunday
May 3rd-7th	New York State Convention, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY
May 14th	Mother's Day
May 20th	Deadline For Submissions June Issue Of The Rising Dawn
May 29th	Memorial Day



### 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.