

New York State



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

NEW YORK STATE OFFICERS

**Dr. Heather A. Rave**

STATE REGENT  
1711 Little Britain Road  
Rock Tavern, NY 12575  
845/496/4982  
heather.rave@gmail.com

**Theresa Duran**

FIRST VICE STATE REGENT  
31 Triangle Place  
Freeport, NY 11520  
516/223/0092  
tduran@optonline.net

**Connie Breindel**

SECOND VICE STATE REGENT  
3721 Salisbury Avenue  
Blasdell, NY 14219  
716/823/0741  
cbreindel@verizon.net

**Marguerite Forde**

STATE SECRETARY  
37 Laurel Road,  
Kings Park, NY 11754  
631/265/6088  
meforde@verizon.net

**Judy Sterling**

STATE TREASURER  
604 Batavia Avenue  
Fulton, NY 13069  
315/592/4140  
jlstirling@twcny.rr.com

**Rev. Matthew Newcomb**

STATE CHAPLAIN  
50 Ball Street  
Port Jervis, NY 12771  
pastor@stmarysportjervis.com

**Emily Guilherme**

NATIONAL SUPERVISOR  
951/907/3447  
emthangal@aol.com

Please submit any suggestions, comments, compliments and | news items to **State Regent Heather Rave** and email a copy to the editor: **Theresa Duran** [tduran@optonline.net](mailto:tduran@optonline.net) 516/223/0092



DECEMBER 2020

## The Season Of Christmas Is A Season Of Light!

HEATHER RAVE, ED.D., STATE REGENT



My Dear Catholic Daughters of New York State,

It is my great joy to greet you during these Holy Days of Christmas and the New Year with the words of Isaiah: “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone” (Isaiah 9:1). With these words, Isaiah captures the meaning of Christmas.

The coming of the end of the year coincides with our annual observance of Advent and Christmas. As we look back to a year that in so very many ways has been terribly sad and disappointing, still we are full of hope in view of what is yet to come. This hope is founded in Who is to come: our Lord Jesus Christ.

The weeks leading to Christmas encourage us to be one with the prophets who foretold the Lord’s coming as they fervently hoped for an end to the bondage and captivity that so often marked the life of the people of Israel.

Even now, we live in this same hope as we so often sing “O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.” We rejoice, for we are confident that, in spite of all things, God is with us.

Advent also serves to help us prepare to celebrate the Lord’s birth, surrounded by the love of Mary and Joseph, the song of angels and shepherds’ witness. We look fondly to that first Christmas as the reason for our celebration so many years later. These weeks before Christmas challenge us to see and welcome the Lord who breaks into each of our lives as surely as He entered the life and history of humanity long ago in Bethlehem.

The deeper matters of life that we long for—hope, joy, peace, light, and love are the very promises of Christmas given to us by God and rooted in the angel’s announcement to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago: “I bring you good news of great joy for all people for a Savior has been born who is

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



## The Season of Advent: A Time of Preparation

REV. MATTHEW NEWCOMB, STATE CHAPLAIN

Dear Catholic Daughters,

This year is finally coming to a close. We should never wish for time to pass, but some years are harder than others to get through; this is definitely one of them. Now with daylight ever decreasing we need to make sure our spiritual base is secure. One way we can do this is to prepare well for the season of Advent. Advent prepares us not so much for celebrating Christmas, as it prepares us for the Second Coming of Our Lord and Savior in glory. A question to ask ourselves; are we ready when He comes again? We know not the hour nor the day, only that He is coming again. Besides this truth, we know that all of us will have to make an account of our lives before our Lord. He is merciful, but have we responded to His grace and have we lived the virtues set before us?

With Covid-19 still around us, most of us won't be as busy this Advent as usual; this might not be a bad thing. Instead of all the parties etc., we normally attend, use the extra time to evaluate what place our faith truly plays in our daily lives. Are we increasing in wisdom, fortitude and prudence or do we still allow our emotions and passions to control or at least influence us to an unhealthy degree? If we want our light to shine to others, it is assisted tremendously by incorporating the virtues into our personalities and especially our decisions. That doesn't mean we'll be doing everything perfectly, but I bet we'll be happier and have greater peace in our lives.

Know of my continued prayers for all of you, especially for a joyous Christmas and blessed and healthy New Year. May 2021 bring less surprises, greater peace, and more opportunities to allow our light to shine. The world often enjoys dwelling on darkness, we know the true light shines ever brightly, even in the darkest hour.

In Unity and Charity, Father Newcomb

### NEW YORK STATE MASS CARDS

Effective immediately, please send all NYS Mass card enrollments to:

**Lu Koch, State Chairman of Spiritual Enhancement**  
38 High Rock Ave., Ste 6I, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

The mass cards are free, simply pay postage for them.  
Contact Linda Bolt, State Sales Chairperson at:  
716-668-3047 or mariebolt@gmail.com.

Return the mass intention insert, along with your free will donation, to Lu Koch and your intention will be remembered monthly, for one year, in masses said by **State Chaplain Fr. Matthew Newcomb**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Christ the Lord." I invite you to embrace the promises of Christmas and then share the same with others!

I am looking forward to Christmas and the New Year! We cannot erase the past year, but we can surely recommit ourselves and our Courts to a renewed faithfulness to the Lord whose birth we prepare to celebrate with joy and love; to a renewed focus on Unity and Charity.

Christmas is a season of unity and peace. Christmas is a season of sharing. Christmas is a season of joy. Christmas is a season of Light! We, as Catholic Daughters, are called to illuminate our courts, parishes, families, communities, and all the Earth. We are the light when we illumine the way for others. We are the light when we deliver hope and dispense reasons to smile. Christ has come to remove all darkness in our hearts and in our world. This calls us to celebrate with joy, for it is good news for humanity. May this ancient prayer be on our lips and in our hearts: "Jesus, living in Mary, come and live in us."

This is my Christmas prayer for all Catholic Daughters and for each one of you. May God shine the life-giving light of the Christ upon you, your families and loved ones, to lead you to his holy realm, today and always.

Yours in Unity and Charity,

*Heather*



### Our New York State CDA Website is up and running once again!

New York State thanks Past State Regent Mary Impellizeri and her husband Jack Impellizeri for all of their work on the website over the past year. Unfortunately, Jack's health has forced them to take a step back right now.

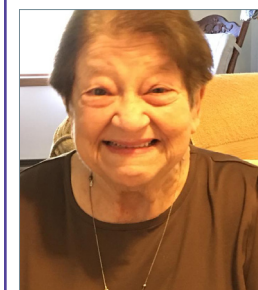
**Second Vice State Regent Connie Breindel** stepped right in and has reformatted and relaunched our website (thanks Connie!). (Due to be live by 11/25)

Check out the progress at: **cdanys.org**

Be sure to see the links to a new video series: **Back To Basics**, hosted by your State Officers. The first 3 episodes should be available by the time you receive this newsletter.

The videos are also available on our YouTube Channel: **NYS Catholic Daughters of the Americas**. Go to **YouTube.com** and search **NYS Catholic Daughters** or use **youtube.com/channel/UCCAzrjbsxaCnhj6zlvNeHzQ**

### IN LOVING MEMORY



**Past National Officer and Past New York State Regent Sally Rytleswki** passed away on Saturday, November 14, 2021. Let us in Unity & Charity pray for the repose of her soul.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26*

Please keep Sally and her family in your prayers and please pass this information on to your members; it would be greatly appreciated.

Condolences may be sent to Sally's daughter Joanne Heminway at 3219 Eagle Harbor Waterport Rd., Albion 14411. To share a special memory of Sally, please visit [www.mitchellfamilyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.mitchellfamilyfuneralhomes.com).

## The 2021 New York State Convention

is scheduled to be held  
**April 7-11, 2021 at the  
Holiday Inn  
Saratoga Springs.**

**Watch for the  
Call to Convention in your  
mailbox in early December.**

Some of the most important business to be handled at the State Convention is the election of new State Officers.

While any member may submit paperwork to the **Nominating Committee** for consideration for any State Office, we felt it necessary to inform you that there are at least two anticipated openings on the slate for for the 2021-2023 term.

**Have you considered stepping up to share your gifts with our state?**

Think about it, discuss the possibility with your family, pray on it and please consider if you feel called to serve. The members of NY State could use a woman of your particular talents in a leadership position.

If you feel called, please send 5 copies of your resume, a current photo, letter of endorsement from your local court and a letter of intent to serve which states what office you are seeking to: **Gail Erickson, 2021 Nominating Committee Chairman**  
**37-13 Weathervane Dr.,  
Washingtonville, NY 10992  
before February 1, 2021**



# Hello New York

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT

I cannot tell you how honored and excited I feel to have been appointed the National Supervisor for New York State. For those of you who do not yet know me, I have been a CDA member for 30 years, I have served on the National Board for 12 years, I am the Director for Religious Education at St. Mel's Church in Norco, CA, for the last 24 years. Yes, I live in sunny California! The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has been such a tremendous blessing in my life and I am thrilled to share in this journey with you. I am especially looking forward to attending your State Convention next year—it will be such an amazing time to celebrate!

The season of Advent is upon us already, and typically we would be preparing for family gatherings, business parties, and the beautiful liturgies which glorify God in Christ Jesus. This year, however, will be unlike any other we've experienced in our lifetimes. No need to remind anyone, especially in New York, just how troubling this year has been. We now have an opportunity to enter into Advent in a more powerful way. The season of Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ Child at Christmas, and preparing for His Second Coming by purifying our hearts and minds. We are called to prepare room in our hearts with joy!

I call you dear sisters, when those negative or overwhelming emotions try to bring our gaze away from the empty manger, let us rise with joy and prepare for the His coming. I ask that you offer up all we have been through in the past year as kindling in our hearts that the Holy Spirit would set on fire so that we may sing at Christmas Eve Mass, with abandon, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king. Let every heart prepare Him room."

May the Lord prepare you and bring you peace. You are constantly in my heart and prayers.

Even though I reside on the other side of the country, I'm here to be of service to you, here is my contact information, please feel free to reach out to me by email: emthanga1@aol.com or my cell: 951-907-3447

Blessings to all, Emily

# NY State SCHOLARSHIPS

KAREN SHEBOY,

STATE CHAIRMAN OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The **2021 Catholic Daughters of the Americas New York State Court Scholarship** application is now available, and included with this newsletter.

We award three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating Seniors of the Class of 2021.

This scholarship is open to any daughter, son or dependent of a New York CDA member. (Please see the application for full requirements.)

The applicant must be accepted by a 4-year school.

Please announce this scholarship to all of your members.

All completed applications, with all supporting documentaion should be sent to:

Karen Sheboy  
38 Spring Road  
Washingtonville, NY 10992

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call **Karen Sheboy @ 845-549-3064.**

# Lighting the Fire

THERESA DURAN, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

Isn't there something magical about sitting around a bon fire? Roasting marshmallows, telling stories, laughing, singing—there's nothing like it.

This year, my husband Hector upgraded our backyard firepit with new stone, a pebbled surface area and cushioned benches, it is beautiful! Partly due to quarantine, we spent many nights out there this spring, summer and fall.

As I think back now to those wonderful nights, either alone, with the kids or with friends, I think of a fire as a comparison to our courts. I found some of these tips on a website about planning the perfect campfire. **A proper fire does many things: it warms your body, cooks your food, and lights up the darkness. Unfortunately, you can't have any of those if your fire extinguishes itself in 5 minutes. Learning how to build a great fire is a valuable skill that you can use for life**—and a lesson on building the fire of our courts so we can live our State Regent's theme to Let Your Light Shine.

**Before you even light a match, you have to prepare your site for a campfire properly, cleared of weeds and leaves and ready for you to place your stones.** We have to make sure that our community, parish and pastor are ready to receive us, host us and support us. This might mean that you need to meet with the pastor or members of your parish council to ensure that you have a proper meeting space that fits your needs and the support of others in the area.

**It's impossible to build a great campfire without a good handful of tinder, small twigs, paper, carboard. You can't just take a match to a giant log and expect it to light. Instead, start with tinder. Tinder catches fire fast, but it also burns fast.** We need those members who catch the spark right away and burn hot with the desire. Sometimes these tinder members have new ideas, don't squealch them; sometimes they want to take on office, don't dissuade them by saying they haven't been a member long enough. We need tinder to get things going, but we can't just light them and leave them...they will burn out too quickly!

**Once your tinder is rolling, it's time to scale into some slightly larger wood. You can't go from tinder to large fuelwood immediately—that will just smother your little fire.** Ok, so, we know, sometimes, when you've got those

tinder members, hot with the fire, the fuelwood members (one's that have been around forever and chaired every committee and held every office at some time over the years) if thrown right on top of the tinder, they can smother them. We need to support the tinder, not drown it.

**That's where kindling comes in. Its role is to help shape the fire.** The kindling is the committee, the members that want to help and support the tinder, to make them successful in encouraging the fire and keeping it burning hot and bright. They don't smother the tinder, they don't dismiss their ideas, they don't say "we've tried that before," they don't say "that will never work here." They pitch in, they try to encourage the flames grow, they help the fire keep burning.

**Finally, we have the fuelwood. This is any type of heavy wood that will keep your fire going for an extended period. It's the primary fuel for your fire.** You remember them, the members that have been there through thick and thin, the members that have dedicated themselves to your court and the Mission of CDA over the years? We need that fuelwood (though I wasn't a fan of the article I cite using the word heavy! LOL), we rely on the skill and experience of our long-term members to lead, to bolster, to support all of our efforts; to keep our fire burning long and strong and hot so that we may be that light in the darkness, that warmth when it is needed.

Now it's the time to keep adding fuel to the fire to maintain it. What about if no one has been tending to the fire for a while, no one has been stoking the flames, no one has been adding wood? Well, the fire will simply burn out. So what do we do then? We sweep up the ash and start anew!

**You got your fire going? Awesome.**



## The 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.

# THANK YOU PROJECT

Ct. St. Pius X #1690, Levittown, Regent Mary Lynn Borst and Past District Deputy Sandy Leonard collected and counted the donated thank you cards



Despite COVID restrictions we still managed to collect 2,407 notes and monetary donations of \$83 from 16 courts that will be sent to **A Million Thanks** in Villa Park, CA.

Participation in the project was down a bit this year, like everything else, we can thank COVID. Courts that held writing events last year were not able to do so due to local restrictions; however, some courts still found a way to host outdoor, social distanced events. We thank them for their dedication.

The following courts participated in the 2020 Thank You Project:

**Ct. Patricia #195, Newburgh**

**Ct. Mc Laughlin #422, Saratoga Springs**

**Ct. Immaculata #444, Mineola**

**Ct. St. Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw**

**Ct. Assumption #690, Maybrook**

**Ct. Margaret Mary #768, Monroe**

**Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport**

**C. Ave Maria #832, Kings Park**

**Ct. Queen of Angels #869, Hicksville**

**Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931, Brockport**

**Ct. Nilan #985, Highland**

**Ct. St. Ignatius Martyr #1067, Long Beach**

**Ct. Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell**

**Ct. St Pius X #1690, Levittown**

**Ct. St Gerard #1920, Centerreach**

**Ct. St. Anne, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville**

**Ct. St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram**

We hope that next year every court in our state participates in this worthwhile and easy project. If we did nothing other than had each member in our state write one card, we would have collected almost 5,000 notes of thanks for our troops.



Court Queen of Angels #869, Hicksville, collected 441 cards and notes at St. Ignatius Loyola parish and classes from various Catholic elementary schools who saw the bulletin announcement and mailed in their cards. Court members are shown here with Fr. Shibi Pappan, Administrator of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish.



Court St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville, held an outdoor, socially-distanced drop-in event on a Friday afternoon in October for St. Mary's parishioners to make cards for The Thank You Project. They had a great turn-out and parishioners were excited to contribute.



## That Very First Meeting

CONNIE BREINDEL, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

Think back to the time when you walked into that first Catholic Daughters meeting. How did you feel at that meeting? Did you know anything about this great organization? Why were you there? Did you go alone or were you there because someone invited you? Did someone come over and make you feel welcome?

I remember my first meeting. I grew up with the Catholic Daughters being my mother's group of friends. She never suggested I join and I never asked because that was her group of friends. It was about 10 years after she had passed when her best friend, my "other mother," suggested that I join and said that I would make an excellent addition to the court. I even had a few friends join with me. We had no idea what was going on but we were welcomed with open arms. Really, who wouldn't want six "30-somethings" to join? I remember when it came time to serve refreshments, I was uncomfortable when women who I grew up calling Mrs. "So and So" serve me. I even offered to serve and help her. One replied, "don't worry, you will be serving soon enough."

We are always reminded to encourage ideas from everyone and never say "we've never done that before" and "that's not the way we do it". But, do our new members feel comfortable coming forward with ideas and opinions? Based on a conversation that I had with a new member friend of mine, I am not so sure. She joined in the fall of 2019 and whenever I see her I answer any questions that she has. I see that she is still trying to understand things and it was only during a recent conversation that I realized how much there is to the Catholic Daughters and how much she still needs to know.

So, do you organize a new member tea or orientation specifically to explain the history, Circle of Love, National Projects and Charities, the hierarchy of the organization and how special each local court is in its area? If you do that, I commend you and your court! If not, that might be something that you would want to try. Even in this time of social distancing you can provide a folder of this information that they can read and reference at their leisure. It may give them the confidence to speak up with ideas and opinions at the meetings. I want to thank Sue for reminding me how it feels to be a new member and for the suggestions to inform a new member. I wish to dedicate this article to Sue and all the other new members across the state and say welcome aboard!!

## The 2021 Education Contests

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

I certainly hope everyone is enjoying the fall season and beginning to prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas. For many of us, these will be very different than holidays past with far smaller celebrations. Education, too, is far different than what we experienced during our school days. Distance /on-line learning in addition to hybrid methods (combining distance and classroom learning) is now the "new normal" as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disrupt our everyday lives.

While many things have changed in 2020, our CDA Education contest is remaining constant. This year's contest themes are:

**"Let All You Do Be Done With Love." —1 Cor. 16:14 or Show Love To One Another**

The General Rules for the 2021 contests will be included in a mailing from National or you can check them out: [catholicdaughters.org](http://catholicdaughters.org), scroll to the **Circle of Love** and click on **Education**.

I realize it may be far more challenging this year for courts to promote the contest and receive entries, but I will be looking forward to each and every entry I do receive. Please feel free to contact me at [mewoll@aol.com](mailto:mewoll@aol.com) or **845-297-5250** if you have any questions.

LUKE 2:10-11

*The angel said to them: Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.*

# Against All Odds

EILEEN PETERSON  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATIVE

Our Roman Catholic Faith is quite remarkable when you truly take the time to think about it. We believe that the angel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary and asked her to be the mother of God (Jesus, the second person in the Blessed Trinity).

Mary’s “YES” was the most famous crisis pregnancy as she could have been stoned to death for at this time in history it was the Jewish law. Joseph was going to leave her quietly, but he was visited by an angel of the Lord in a dream: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 1:21)

There was no room for Mary to give birth to Jesus, yet God finds a way for the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Most Holy to be born. The only shelter available was a stable, and there, Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger” (Luke 2:6-7)

Jesus survived the slaughter of the innocents as Herod, king of Judea ordered the execution of all male children two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, this Christmas brings concerns that have not been there in the past. The pandemic has impacted all our lives and we know that our technology will find a vaccine to prevent this virus from destroying the precious gift of human LIFE.



Crèche outside the Rockland County Executive’s Office, New City, NY  
(Photo credit Eileen Petersen)

On April 17, leading U.S. Bishops wrote to the commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Stephen Hahn, asking that a COVID vaccine be developed ethically.

“It is critically important that Americans have access to a vaccine that is produced ethically: no American should be forced to choose between being vaccinated against this potentially deadly virus and violating his or her conscience,” the bishops wrote.

So please pray this Christmas for an ethical vaccine that will be moral and successful. May God Bless You and Your Precious Families this Christmas and may 2021 be a year of abundant blessings and love.

## How To Receive The Rising Dawn

**The Rising Dawn** is mailed to all Regents, District Deputies and State Chairmen at no cost.

To receive additional printed subscriptions to **The Rising Dawn**, please send \$10 (checks made payable to *Catholic Daughters of the Americas*) to:  
**Karen Rave at 1711 Little Britain Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575.**

**If you have a paid subscription, your \$10 annual fee is now due. Please remit payment to Karen before January 1, 2021. All unpaid subscriptions will be cancelled.**

An electronic version is not only more economical and environmentally friendly, it is also means you receive the issue at least one week earlier than the mailed version since printing, stuffing and delivery takes time.

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

To be added to the email edition subscription list, please send your request to:  
Newsletter Editor **Theresa Duran** at **tduran@optonline.net** and **Karen Rave** at **krave@hvc.rr.com**

# NEWSLETTERS

BARBARA DREW,  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Things may seem a bit different this late autumn: we are unable to have our Memorial Masses, some courts are unable to meet, but prayer is still something we can all do. In those prayers, please remember our members who went home to God this past year.

The State Convention is planned for April 2021 and there will once again be a Newsletter Contest. Newsletters, have always been an important tool to reach our members and, since social distancing, they have become even more essential. Newsletters are, in some cases, the only way courts are able to stay in touch with one another.

I know there are many amazing newsletters out there. Now is the time to share them! The contest is a way to share your newsletter ideas, format, and style and also get feedback about it as part of the Newsletter Contest. The deadline for the newsletter contest is February 15, 2021. The newsletter will be judged, scored, and sent to National before the Convention in April.

The guidelines, cover sheet and score sheets are located in the September National Newsletter and can be found on the website. If you have any questions, please contact me and remember the NY State deadline is February 15, 2021.

My hope for the New Year is that our membership continues to grow. Wishing all the members and their families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Leaves Change & So Do We!

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

Watching how the weather and the Fall leaves have changed, reminds me of how our lives have changed, and even though we have turned our clocks back, we cannot turn our lives back to how it use to be. We must also change ourselves. We can’t sit at home and think “oh well, I’m going to stay in again, its cold and wet, I’ll let someone else do it.”

I know there are a lot of Courts that do not meet in the winter, or have not met since the pandemic began, but we still need to stay connected to our members. In this changing world we now live in, Catholic Daughters is needed more now than ever. We need to rise up and show the world that we can still live our motto of Unity and Charity.

Think outside of the box. Phone calls, e-mails, maybe meet in a new location that offers social distance options, but still have a meeting. With support from one another, we can survive these uncertain times and come out on top!

I would like to remind everyone that when making out checks, please make them payable to **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**. Two signatures are required on all CDA checks; use the memo line to indicate where they are to be applied; and ALL checks get sent to State Secretary Marguerite Forde. Thank you for your assistance, by doing this, checks are processed faster.

My family and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. May God Bless all of your Families with Health and Happiness! See you all in April!

## AROUND THE STATE



### Clothing Collection

On Sunday, October 18, 2020, **Court St. Pius X #1690, Levittown**, arranged for a truck to be in the St. Bernard Parish parking lot from **RewearAble**, which is a program of ACLD (Adults & Children with Learning Disabilities). RewearAble is a recycling and job creation program committed to helping people with developmental disabilities pursue enviable lives through

employment. Their employees conduct the in-house sorting of clothing (in any condition) and other small household items ensuring everything collected is prepared for reuse or repurposing. The collection was advertised in the parish bulletin and via the Court's Facebook page. Court members assisted the donors with getting the items out of their cars. More than 8,000 pounds were collected in 5 hours to help this very worthy cause!



### JCDA Church Renovators

**JCDA Court Bishop McDonnell #1403, Babylon**, to commemorate their 10th anniversary last year, and to give back to **St. Joseph's Parish**, the Court decided to renovate and rename the former "crying room" and dedicate it as **The St. Joseph Family Room**. They work in February, 2020, had to stop work when COVID hit, and have only recently been able to finish the updates. The St. Joseph Family Room has been made available to families during Masses and has become a waiting area for brides before their weddings. The JCDA Court raised funds, asked for help from parishioners who knew how to paint, sand, and refinish wood to volunteer to work with us, and reached out to local businesses to make financial donations. The girls did some of the work themselves, supervised, of course, and the professionals did the rest. The funds we raised paid for a new, flat screen television, the tapestries that are hanging, and the painting supplies.



# SOS!

**SEND OTHER STORIES**

Submit 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.

## The Gift of Leadership

LINDA MANCHESTER, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to all the newly installed local court officers. Your next two years will probably be the most educational time of your life. Fortunately, the **Tools of the Trade** and the **Robert's Rules of Order** will help to guide you during your term. It is important that, as a court, you continue to meet either virtually or in person while maintaining social distance.

As the Regent, you might want to consider planning a meeting with your officers to review their role and responsibilities for their office. It is vital that they know their job as it helps to keep your court running smoothly.

If you are new to the Regent role, here are some qualities of an effective leader that may help you: lead by example, demonstrate integrity, communicate effectively (very important), recognize success, empower others, motivate and inspire.

Leadership in CDA should be a positive experience for you and can help you focus on developing your members' potential and gifts for the common good.

Plan your calendar for the year and explore ideas which would benefit your members—especially a spiritual activity. Keep your meetings to under an hour as too long a meeting will cause your members to become restless. Lastly, don't make the mistake of trying to do it all. The Vice Regent is there to assist you, rely on your officers, ask members to be part of the process. People just need to be asked and they are more than likely happy to step up!

In this time of COVID-19, your members may have many concerns and questions. It is vital that you keep them informed frequently by email, in person or by mail.

As we approach Advent, keep in mind what is important to our faith for yourselves and your members. We have been fortunate that our State Court leadership has risen to the challenge of providing us hope through prayer. I will end this with a prayer as I wish all of you a Blessed Christmas!

Leadership is hard to define.

Lord, let us be the ones to define it with justice.

Leadership is like a handful of water.

Lord, let us be the people to share it with those who thirst.

Leadership is not about watching and correcting.

Lord, let us remember it is about listening and connecting.

Leadership is not about telling people what to do.

Lord, let us find out what people want.

Leadership is less about the love of power and more about the power of love.

Lord, as we continue to undertake the role of leader let us be affirmed by the servant leadership, we witness in your son Jesus.

Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow.

Let our greatest passion be compassion. Our greatest strength love.

Our greatest victory the reward of peace.

In leading let us never fail to follow. In loving let us never fail. Amen

## Marie C. Curry Scholarship & Seminary Fund

ELAINE KLESIC, STATE CHAIRPERSON

What a year this has been! As I am writing this article, we still do not have a President confirmed and we are still fighting COVID-19. However, we should be thankful for the country we live in, our family and our health.

I know many of us will not be celebrating Thanksgiving or Christmas in the same way with our extended families, but we can celebrate with the people we live with and reach out to others by phone or Zoom.

Our courts are also in dire need financially and having our monthly meetings cancelled because of the virus is not helping. We are not able to have our yearly fundraisers and are not able to contribute to our charities and State obligations.

I want to thank all those courts who have contributed to the **Marie C. Curry Fund**. As of this writing, 98% of our courts have fulfilled this obligation.

Perhaps by our NY State Convention, we will be able to reach 100%. Remember, this is an assessment, not something the court votes on. Payment is expected as soon as invoices, which will be going out in January 2021, are received.

I hope you all keep safe, wear your masks and wash your hands. I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

# 2020: More Than We Could Have Ever Imagined

MARGUERITE FORDE, NEW YORK STATE SECRETARY

2020 is almost over and I'm sure most of us will watch it go with a great big sigh of relief. There is no doubt that it has tested us mentally, spiritually and physically. Our world and our lives have been turned upside down and inside out. But, I think we have become stronger, more grateful, more compassionate and definitely more resourceful. We are pushing ourselves to be more than we ever thought we could be, doing more than we ever imagined we had the power to do, and at the same time reaching out in so many ways to be there for our families, friends and our Catholic Daughter sisters.

I want to say thank you to those courts who have sent in their dues. I know it was difficult to work out the logistics of getting your checks signed by 2 board members, but you prevailed. If you have not received your invoices could it be that we don't have the correct information. Is there a new Regent? Have addresses changed? Please reach out and let me know.

I must give a huge shout out to all the District Deputies who coordinated with their courts to hold not one, but two, Financial Reviews in the most difficult conditions. You are truly very special ladies and deserve many accolades.

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, let's remember His light shining on us, bringing hope for peace & joy in this beautiful world we live in. **"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** — John 1:5

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

## New Practices For The New Normal

PATTI DRIVANOS,  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF QUALITY OF LIFE

### "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son" —John 3:16

We are now preparing in our Courts, our parishes, and our homes for the birth of our Savior. I am not sure there was a time in recent history that we needed to share this message of love and joy more than today. We must work awfully hard to help our neighbors who may be facing food insecurity, poverty, loneliness and fear. We may have to be extremely creative in how we help this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Here are some suggestions you may wish to incorporate in your planning. **Call local agencies, schools and nursing homes and see what restrictions are in place and how your Court may assist in meeting their needs.** Many still need donations of food, cleaning supplies, Personal protective equipment and, of course, finances. In addition to the corporal needs, we need to pray— pray as we wrap the gift, pray as we shop for the food, pray as we write the checks—and include a cheery note with any donation, letting the person know someone cares for them.

Court celebrations will be different as we may not be able to join with other courts or gather with others in our parishes. Perhaps at your December meeting you could have individual food orders delivered so you can still share in Christmas fellowship. Using your **Ladies of Martha and Mary** committee, you can reach out to the infirm or elderly court members to make sure their needs are met.

Remember our priests who faithfully care for us as well as our seminarians and other religious and always keep them in prayer.

And may we take the time to be kinder and gentler to all the persons that God places in our path each day.

**Thank you to everyone who supported out Park Lane Jewelry Fundraiser.**

**PARK•LANE**  
JEWELRY | EST. 1955

**We reached our goal and realized a profit of over \$5,000 for the NY State Treasury. These funds will go a long way towards helping our State stay solvent in these difficult times.**

## Christmas Memories

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

I'm sure I'm not alone and this has happened to you. I was typing up what I imagined to be a fabulous article for this issue of The Rising Dawn. I was on a roll and my creative juices were flowing. One fabulous sentence after another. Wow, it was going to be great. Then I had to stop. I saved my work and went on to other things. I just came back to it a week later and NO!!!! It is gone. I've looked everywhere and it's just gone. Well, what can I do? I cannot rewrite it for sure. The first time I gave it my all and I just can't re-create what I wrote. I tried, but, alas I cannot do it.

I'll tell you what it was about. I was recalling my childhood and how much fun I had at Christmas. I loved Christmas. All of it from start to finish. The best was when my maternal grandparents came to stay over. I slept in the Castro convertible in my parents room and my sister (11 years older than I) got to sleep on the sofa in the living room and as a result, got to see Santa actually put the presents under the tree. I know this because she would tell me on Christmas morning. Since my grandparents were from the 'old country' (that's Italy), we had the seven fishes on Christmas Eve and there was always something delicious to eat (thus the weight problem now, so thanks everyone).

I always wanted to go to midnight Mass, but I was too young, so only my sister got to go and I went in the morning with my mom. I loved the music and the choir. I loved Father McNulty's sermons. I loved the Mass but always wondered how my mom knew when to stand, sit and kneel (Latin Mass, yes, I'm that old). I loved the baby Jesus in the crèche and how we would take a blade of hay to bring home to place in our own Nativity. It was all about the birth of Jesus, and then presents of course. I had two boy cousins my age so, much to my mother's dismay, I preferred a holster set from the Lone Ranger, a Lassie dog, slot cars and cops and robbers toys. It was great at Christmas in those days and I had written a great article about it. Wish you could have read it. I wanted to cheer you up on Christmas and get you to think about your childhood and your 'good old days' as

well. Then, I tied it all into a great ending about let's get back to the childhood innocence and trust that we had as youngsters. Make Christmas about love and Jesus and God's great gift of Divine Mercy made flesh through the "Fiat!" of Mary.

It was terrific! Trust me. Sorry you can't read it. Anyway, I was going to end with the poem I wrote tons of years ago. I still have it so I'll put it at the end of this just like I was originally going to do. And then, I'll put a PS after that about getting in your Circle of Love Spiritual Enhancement forms so that I can review them and decide on a winner. Wow, I'm thinking you really would have enjoyed that article. Wish you could have read it. Blessed Christmas to all.

**The poem about Christmas I wrote tons of years ago:**

I often think of Christmastime  
And days of childhood so divine  
When mom baked cakes and cookies too  
And always did the love show through.

Then dad would set the trains around  
And always did the gifts abound  
There was midnight Mass and the big church bell  
And through the house the kitchen smell.

But most of all dad loved the tree  
With lights so bright that all could  
How here within our home this night  
Shown God's eternal loving might

So now when in a house I see  
A fresh and lovely Christmas tree  
I think about my youth long past  
It shall forever in my memory last.

(not great but, hey, I was young)

**PS:** It's that time of year again. Write up your Spiritual Enhancement projects and send to me. I was so impressed that so many courts participated and had such wonderful ideas. All reports must be postmarked by **February 28, 2021**. I will be selecting the most outstanding project and submitting it to the National Chairman.



## National Projects & Charities

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

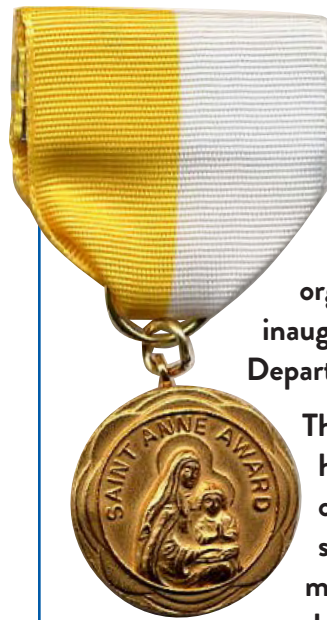
Things are looking up here in the North Country as this past month, my local court was able to have our first meeting since March—with masks, social distancing and strictly business. We pray things continue as well. Positive thoughts and prayers that the NYS Convention will happen in April, but there will still be reports, financial information, and contest entries to take care of and file, even if it does not happen.

Our new National Regent's theme is **Let All You Do Be Done With Love**. Being Chair of National Projects and Charities, I know many of our NYS Courts do special activities to promote and donate to the National Projects and Charities, this is the time to let your court shine!

Regents: February 28th is the last postmark that I, as State Chairman can accept donations to National Projects and Charities in order to have process them and have your donations credited in my report at the April NYS Convention. Any donations received after February 28th will not be credited in convention tally.

If you have a court approved budget and have adequate funds, your bills can be paid and your donations submitted. I know some courts are not financially well off right now, New York State understands this, and appreciates whatever donations can be made.

Merry Christmas and as we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus may you and yours be blessed abundantly. Be well. Be safe.



### The St. Anne Medal

The St. Anne Medal is the highest national recognition for adults who serve Catholic youth through national organizations. The recognition was inaugurated in 1957 by the USCCB Department of Education.

The purpose of the award is to honor the outstanding service of adults contributing to the spiritual development of Catholic members of organizations for girls, and to further Catholic adult leadership in youth ministry.

New York State CDA is reinstating the practice of awarding this medal to members who work with JCDA. We are now accepting nominations. Nomination forms will be sent to the Regents of courts that have Juniors. All Nominations must be returned to Helene Shepard by March 1st.

## MEMORY LANE



*A blast from the past photo was submitted by Mary Lynn Borst. This was taken at a JCDA event in November 1969.*

*The adults from left to right are: Past CDA Executive Director Lorraine McMahon, Kathy Geary, Bishop Francis Mugavero of the Diocese of Brooklyn, & Christine DeAngelis; the girls are: Mary Lynn Borst & Susan Geary.*

*Thanks for sharing Mary Lynn!*

## JCDA Members Are Not Just Waiting For The COVID To Pass

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE JCDA/YOUTH CHAIRMAN

We can't allow COVID-19 to prevent us from planning and working for the Youth/JCDA in our parish communities and our local courts. We have to think positive and plan with hope in our hearts.

Now, more than ever, we are needed to encourage, motivate and be the role models for our young people who are struggling with so many aspects of life during this pandemic crisis. It is not going away as fast as we would like it to, but we can't wait for that to happen. So as leaders and advisors we need you to pray, plan and practice patience moving into the world of technology.

We need to energize our groups by organizing virtual activities, especially if you are not able to meet with them in person. Do you have any of the following techniques to help you reach out?

- Do you have a Website?
- Do you have a Facebook Page?
- Do you have a simple Newsletter? (It could go out in an email)
- Do you have a Phone Chain?

All of the above will help to you to keep in touch with your group. They also will be able to be in touch with one another. They need to know that we are here for them and the fact is that they are not alone.

Think of activities they could be done during Advent that will help the girls in preparation for Christmas.

They can't visit nursing homes but they can send cards to the shut-ins.

Prepare Advent calendars with an activity for each day. The activity could be posted on Facebook, etc.

We need to share our ideas with other groups in New York State.

We have divided the JCDA Courts into three groups since we are three on this committee. I will cite some of the activities that have been reported to me by the two committee members: **Annette Wilson** and **Patricia Ziegler**.

**JCDA Ct. Rita #264, Cornwall**, has been meeting and actually planned and carried out activities. One in particular was to paint rocks and put scriptural sayings on them.

**JCDA Ct. Queen of Apostles #768, Monroe**, had **Sister Michele Ruggiero** present certificates and monetary gifts to **Jaslynn Merejo**, Third Place in Poetry and **Danna Hernandez Jimenez**, Third Place in Art in the 2020 NY State Education Contest.

**JCDA Ct. Ave Maria #832, Kings Park**, met in September. They participated in the public Rosary and helped out on **CDA Sunday** with the **Thank You Project**.

**JCDA Ct. Bishop McDonald #1403, Babylon**, held their meeting on Zoom. They had a successful Backpack Collection and donated them to their parish Outreach.

There is a project for each month in their newsletter.

**JCDA Ct. St. Aiden #1577, Williston Park**, has about 60 girls on their roster. They are praying for the end of the Pandemic Crisis so that they can resume their activities.

**JCDA Ct. St. Rosalia #2598, Peru**, have held outdoor meetings during COVID. Their theme for the year is **Fun! Food! & Faith!** They have activities planned for the future.

**Congratulations to three other senior courts for trying to organize a JCDA Court during this pandemic crisis:**

**Ct. Mary Anthony #883, Liberty**, **Regent Victoria LaRusso** is planning the Institution of a JCDA court early in 2021.

**Ct. Ignatius Martyr #1067, Long Beach**, **Regent Jane Magno D'Anna** is working hard to make a Junior court a reality.

**Ct. Genevieve Walsh #918, Goshen**, **Regent Joy Palazzola** is taking on the challenge of a Junior Court as one of her goals as Regent.

Let us pray for them so that their efforts may become a reality.

Wishing you many blessings for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2021 be filled with His choicest blessings.

**MAY THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
BE WITH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES  
THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON AND  
THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
COMMITMENT TO THE  
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS  
OF THE AMERICAS.**

**FR. NEWCOMB, HEATHER,  
THERESA, CONNIE,  
MARGUERITE, & JUDY**



OUR GIFT TO YOU: FR. NEWCOMB WILL OFFER A MASS FOR ALL NYS CDA MEMBERS AT ST. MARY'S PARISH IN PORT JERVIS



*Stay Safe!*

New York State now has face masks available. These face masks are light and breathable making them comfortable to wear.

Masks are \$10 each, but if you purchase 10 or more, they are only \$8 each. Please mail your order and court check to: **State Sales Chairwoman Linda Bolt, 59 Caldwell St., West Seneca, NY 14224.** Questions? contact Linda at: **716-668-3047** or **mariebolt@gmail.com**



The CDC recommends wearing face masks, however these are not "medical grade" and CDA makes no guarantees or warranties, express or implied, that the mask prevents infection or the transmission of viruses or disease.

## IMPORTANT DATES

NOV 26TH	THANKSGIVING
NOV 29TH	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DEC 8TH	FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DEC 12TH	BIRTHDAY OF STATE TREASURER JUDY STERLING
DEC 25TH	BIRTHDAY OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST
DEC 31ST	NEW YEAR'S EVE
JAN 1ST	FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY
JAN 6TH	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
JAN 18TH	BIRTHDAY OF STATE SECRETARY MARGUERITE FORDE
	DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
JAN 29TH	MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, DC
FEB 1ST	MARCH RISING DAWN ARTICLES DUE
FEB 14TH	ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 15TH	PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEB 27TH	BIRTHDAY OF SECOND VICE STATE REGENT CONNIE BREINDEL