



The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

June 2021

NEW YORK STATE OFFICERS

Theresa Duran

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

Connie Breindel

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

Tina Bigelow

SECOND VICE STATE REGENT
9423 US Route 9
Lewis, NY 12950
518-873-2054
tbigelow2012@gmail.com

Patti Drivanos

STATE SECRETARY
218 Greencrest Drive
Scotchtown, NY 10941
845-673-5162
yayapatti@aol.com

Judy Sterling

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

Rev. Ralph Sommer

STATE CHAPLAIN
3100 Hempstead Turnpike
Levittown, NY 11756
shepherd@stbernardchurch.org

Emily Guilherme

NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT/NATIONAL SUPERVISOR
951/907/3447
emthanga1@aol.com

Please submit any suggestions, comments, compliments and news items to **State Regent Theresa Duran** at tduran@optonline.net

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

Let The Games Begin!

THERESA DURAN, STATE REGENT

My Dear Sisters,

Let me start by saying how excited and honored I am to have been elected as the New York State Regent for this term. Who knew that when I signed that Application for membership (that Mom placed in front of me) almost 37 years ago, I would arrive at this position?

As I thought about the goals that we need to set for the New York State Board during my term as State Regent, one thing really stuck out to me: we need to return our State to a more Spiritual take on CDA and enforce the idea that we are a special sort of sisterhood.

The idea is that by working on both of these issues, we will be more inviting to like minded women in our parishes and across the state. That will, hopefully, help us to increase our membership, strengthen our courts and lead to our longevity.

The theme for the next two years will be based on Micah 6:8: *You have been told, O mortal one, what is required of you: only to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*

Put simply, our theme is: **Seek Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly With God.** These three simple statements say so much about who we are and who we should be.

Our mission statement says, in part, *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...

Honestly, I don't feel that we do that enough. I mean, our faith is what sets us apart from most other women's groups. PTA can have a fundraiser, book clubs can bring us together, our knitting clique or town food pantry or community garden club all have great purposes, but they don't necessarily share faith.

Catholic Daughters are Catholic! It's our first name! And while our fundraisers are important, they make it possible for us to donate to the many, many good causes we support, we are not the Fundraiser Daughters of the Americas, or the Bake Sale Daughters of the Americas or even the Monthly Meeting Daughters of the Americas. We are the **Catholic** Daughters of the Americas.

So, this is our goal: to spiritually enhance of our members, our courts, our Order, thereby bringing us each closer to God. And, as we do this, become more spiritually connected to our Lord, we will also become more spiritually connected to one another.



**SEEK
JUSTICE.
LOVE
MERCY.
WALK HUMBLY
WITH GOD.**
MICAH 6:8

Continued on page 2

What Is Right & Just

REV. RALPH SOMMER, STATE CHAPLAIN



"Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

"It is right and just."

This is part of the dialogue between priest and people at every Mass. As we reflect on the call to ***act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God***, we see that justice and giving thanks are related at each Mass.

At first when we consider the word "justice" we properly equate it with being fair. Kids quickly complain when they perceive something to be unfair. But as parents know, when we tell them to "clean their room" – presumably one of the most appropriate acts of fairness – they'll sometimes resist saying, "It's not fair! How come I have to clean my room when Sally didn't have to clean hers?"

The fact that "Sally" is two years old and has had a bad cold the past week doesn't enter into their equation of fairness. Their whining could be translated: "I don't feel like doing what's required of me so I'm going to claim it isn't fair."

But it's not just kids whose logic works that way. There are principles of Catholic Social Justice that grownups sometimes complain about because they don't feel like doing what God's justice requires. Do any of this bother YOUR sense of justice: "Everyone is always treated fairly and equally and given the same chances to succeed and grow. Everyone should have enough food, clothing, a nice place to live, a chance to go to good schools, and a decent job." Sounds nice at first, except when this will inevitably

require sacrificial action on our part.

I sometimes encounter Catholics who aren't willing to listen to people who have found the social structures to be unfair whether it is discriminatory housing practices, inequities between school districts, unfair hiring practices, inherent racism, etc. The challenges come when trying to figure out how to make things "right and just" but it begins with listening and understanding others. There are people whose minds are so locked that they won't even begin to listen to other people who have lived in disadvantaged, unjust situations.

Perhaps a key to walking the road to justice is found in that dialogue at Mass. What is "right and just"? Giving thanks to God! How does gratitude inform justice? When I am truly grateful for what I have been given, and even truly thankful for what I've earned by my own hard work, I am connected to our God who has blessed me in those ways. The more I am connected to God, the more I can then have a sense of God's fairness and generosity.

Note how imperfect our sense of fairness and generosity is compared with God's. Jesus urged ongoing forgiveness ("seventy times seven") and lived it by forgiving those who were killing him. That's not fair, except through the lens of God's sense of fairness. Jesus feeds thousands of those who came to hear him, but only after the apostles take everything away from the boy who had the few loaves and fishes. This also is not fair, as seen through merely human eyes. That's why we need to pray that we can grow in God's view of justice.

Being grateful is one huge step in acting justly – and it also informs our mercy and keeps us humble. So let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

Father Ralph Sommer

Father Ralph was New York State Chaplain in 2013-2014 and behaved well enough for us to ask him to return to this role for the next two years. He promises to pray for you each day and asks that you remember him in your prayers.

[Editor's Note: Fr. Ralph wrote that postscript himself! LOL]

Continued from page 1

I hope to be able to visit with many of you over the coming months as COVID restrictions are eased, more people are vaccinated (I am), and members once again become comfortable with meeting and socializing. In the mean time, please join us on the Catholic Daughters NY State Facebook page at 8pm each week night for prayers.

I ask you for patience and prayers as this new State Board finds it's footing and attempts to blaze some new paths (as well as retrace some old ones) in the hopes of rebuilding, reigniting and reaffirming the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in New York State. It will take some time – and lot's of prayer – but, we got this!

In Unity & Charity,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Theresa".

And Now It Is On To The Next Adventure!

DR. HEATHER A. RAVE, IMMEDIATE PAST STATE REGENT

My Dear Fellow Catholic Daughters of New York State,

As I sat down to write this message, I realized that this would be my last message to you, and I felt an overwhelming surge of emotions. All of you, my CDA family, have held a special place in my heart since the day I joined the New York State Board 14 years ago. In the weeks after the results of the current Board were announced, I have heard from so many of you in so many different parts of the state. And while I have not had time to respond to all your messages, I have read each and every one, some with tears in my eyes. There are no words to describe how much they mean to me, and how deeply I have been moved by the outpouring of love.

For obvious reasons, I have been in a reflective mood lately; and I recently re-read my very first message to you... it was a quote by Maya Angelou: *"People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel."* And over the last 14 years, that is exactly what we have done. That is exactly what you have done. It has not always been easy, but it has always been worth it. Your enthusiasm and passion for CDA lifts my spirit and I thank God for each and every single one of you. You have helped make NYS CDA the success it is today, and you have taught me so much through your ingenuity, commitment to CDA, and passion for serving your communities in Unity & Charity.

Each and every single member that I have met over the years means so much to me and I cannot begin to thank you all enough! Fourteen years ago, was...well, fourteen years ago and we were all just a tad younger, but you took a 30-year-old woman and said: *"Yes! She can lead us!"* I do not know if you can appreciate how overwhelming and powerful that moment was for me. And that was just a fraction of emotions I felt when you elected me as State Regent! You are all wonderful and I

thank you all for your support of me over the past 14 years of service on the New York State Board and for your dedication to New York State Catholic Daughters. It is humbling to think of, and I am grateful to have had you be a significant part of my life. Words cannot ever suffice to let you know how much you all mean to me.

I have worked with some amazing women over these 14 years! To all of you that helped New York State CDA and me personally, I say to each of you that you are wonderful women with many talents, and I know you will continue to use these talents in your own ways in service of New York State CDA. Such spiritual and faith filled women, you have been beacons of shining lights and your devotion to NYS CDA is unparalleled. Looking to the future, I have no doubt that New York State Catholic Daughters best days are still to come. Our State Regent, Theresa Duran, is a wonderful person and one of the hardest-working and focused women I know. A leader who knows CDA inside and out, she is exactly the right person to lead New York CDA.

Serving as your State Regent has been the honor of a lifetime...and now it is on to the next adventure! Thinking about my life beyond NYS CDA, I am reminded of a quote by Rumi: *"For those who love with heart and soul, there is no such thing as separation."* Though I will no longer be a NYS Board member, I take comfort knowing that we will never truly be apart, because this is not a goodbye...but it is a new chapter in each of our lives and I will miss all of you being at my side.

To all of you: my sisters, my friends, and my family, thank you for making the last 14 years special beyond words. I have loved NYS CDA, and each of you, with all my heart and soul...I always will! And so, the last words I say to you: It has been a fantastic journey with you, I love you all, and ladies: continue to **Let Your Light Shine!** Thank you.

In Unity & Charity and with deepest affection,
Heather A. Rave, Immediate Past State Regent





It's Time To Get Back to Business

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT

My Dear Sisters Of New York,

I would like express my thanks and gratitude for the hospitality and kindness shown to me at the Installation of your new State Officers on May 1st. I regard it an honor to have been able to participate with your State Court in person and in such a beautiful parish setting.

I wish to once again extend my congratulations and prayers to your new **State Regent, Theresa**, and your Officers: **Connie, Tina, Patti, and Judy**. It was a tremendous blessing to be able to see so many returning faces, as well as meeting new friends whom I hope to become close with as we work together towards our goals as Catholic Daughters. I truly had a wonderful time and am proud of all of you.

As we enter into what (I hope) are the final stages of the pandemic, I encourage all New York State Catholic Daughters to spend the summer praying for those we have lost, reflecting on what the Lord hopes for us to learn from this time in quarantine, and discern where He desires us to move. We are His hands and feet. It's time for us to get back to work. Prepare for your meetings, begin recruiting, and spend time in fellowship with one another.

Your new State Board will be planning exciting and wonderful things for you all, among them a Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray & Play retreats, and of course attending our National Convention in Puerto Rico next year. I encourage and challenge all of you to do what you can to participate in as many of these events as possible. If there's one thing the past year has taught us, it is this: never take the gift of sisterhood and togetherness for granted.

I hope and pray the Lord bless all of your endeavors as we move into summer. God bless you, dear sisters.

In Christ, Emily Guilherme

PRAY AND PLAY RETREAT WEEKENDS

**Don't miss this great opportunity
to make memories and connections
with God & your CDA sisters.**

The retreats will be lead by the State Officers with Presentations by **First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel, State Regent Theresa Duran and Past National Regent Helene Shepard**.

Space is limited. \$50 deposit due: June 1, 2021.
See enclosed flier for details.

National Projects

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Thank you all for the support of all of the various National Projects. My report is in the Convention Report Booklet however, I did find one point of interest in reviewing my spreadsheet and comparing to the past two years to '17 to 19. Naturally with the prospect of little to no fundraisers due to COVID-19 these two years, court donations were down a bit from their usual amounts, which stood to reason. Therefore, 6 courts that usually donate made no donations but 14 courts that did not donate in 2017-2019 came forth and donated during the 2019-2021 term. Awesome and most appreciated during these trying times!

FOR IN HIM WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING — ACTS 17:28

The Importance of Vices

CONNIE BREINDEL, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

The words that Father Ralph stated to me when I was being installed as First Vice State Regent came directly from the Tools of the Trade. He stated “You must be ready, informed, and able to take over, at moment’s notice, the function of the State Regent. Whatever duties are assigned to you by the State Regent, you will accept cheerfully and perform well. It is your obligation to be loyal to the administration and help to make it a success. You must always work in harmony with the State Regent to demonstrate our motto of “Unity and Charity.”

I read these words and those that are said to both the Second Vice State Regent and the Vice Regent for a local court. Their wordings were remarkably similar because the concept for these offices and the

Vice Regents on the National level are the same. The Vice Regent(s) are to help the Regent with the responsibilities she has leading and growing the court for the good of the order. The Regent cannot and should not try to do it all themselves. They need to rely on others especially their Vice Regent(s) to help. They should be delegating duties to their Vice Regent(s). The position of Regent is too important to the vitality of the organization. That is why these positions have been established.

The following quote is an excellent reminder “Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.”
Ecclesiastes 4:9

Now, just a bit about me. I come from a large catholic family. I have 7

older brothers; 7 sisters-in-law; 24 nieces and nephews; and 13 greats. I am employed at M&T Bank for over 15 years. I am active at my parish where I have taught religious education for many years. I am a Eucharistic Minister and an adult funeral server. I am on the liturgy and decorating committees. My mother was a Catholic Daughter but, unfortunately, she had already passed away when I joined in 2002. I held Recording Secretary and Regent office in my local court. I was the Rising Dawn editor prior to Theresa and both Youth/JCDA and Spiritual Enhancement Circle of Love State Chairman. I look forward to where our journey takes us with the new state board. I know that both my mother and father are looking down enormously proud of my accomplishments with this organization.

Members: My Inspiration & Motivation

TINA BIGELOW, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

Hello Catholic Daughters. I am Tina Bigelow, your new 2nd Vice State Regent. I am happily married to Frank for 40 years and we are the proud parents of four adult sons, Kevin (39), Kenny (38), Kris (36), and Kyle (34) and six grandchildren Marlee (12), Makayla (9); Ethan (10), Eva (6), Lucy (3) and Axel (3).

I am so excited to be joining the CDA NY State Board to share my Gifts of the Holy Spirit as we promote the theme Seek Justice. Love Mercy. Walk Humbly with God.

I hope in the next 2 years that I will have a chance to meet each one of you in the upcoming planned events. For the members that I have met at Conventions or prayed with on the CDA Facebook Prayer Services, I hope these events will give me an opportunity to get to know you even better.

I joined CDA in 2003, at the persistent request of the late Past Regent Penny Martin, and have served as a Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Regent in my local

court, a Treasurer in the Past Regents Chapter; a District Deputy and as the Circle of Love State Chairman for Family. Each level of commitment brought fulfillment and growth to my spiritual journey.

Having the honor to serve as a State Chairman for Family, I have read through so many reports of courage and innovative acts of charitable services especially this past year when there was so much despair, uncertainty, fear and detachment. These reports have inspired me so much that it motivated me to step up my commitment to CDA and hope that I can give this kind of inspiration and motivation to all that I meet.

I give thanks in daily prayer to Penny and all of the CDA sisters because as Thomas Merton would say “when a ray of light strikes a crystal, it gives a new quality to the crystal”. May the quality of this crystal continue to transform as the light gets brighter.

NYS Installation of Officers

May 1, 2021 / St. Christopher Church, Baldwin

On Saturday, May 1st, the New York State Court celebrated a most extraordinary event: a State Installation of Officers *outside* of a State Convention!

As we all sadly know, our State Convention planned for Saratoga Springs in April was forced to be canceled because of the COVID pandemic. However, we still wanted to have our Installation. It was decided to have a Mass and celebration near the hometown on the new **State Regent, Theresa Duran**.

All of the new State Officers were able to attend, so the plans got rolling. And boy, what a day it was; actually, what a weekend it was!

We thank **State Chaplain Fr. Ralph** for celebrating a beautiful Mass, **National Regent-Elect Emily Guilherme** for traveling from California to oversee the ceremony, and all officers and members who were in attendance.

State Regent Theresa Duran, **First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel**, **Second Vice State Regent Tina Bigelow**, **State Secretary Patti Drivanos**, and **State Treasurer Judy Sterling** were humbled and honored to be installed at this momentous event.

We were blessed to have 5 Past State Regents in attendance and thank them for their assistance with the ceremony: **Past National Regent Helene Shepard**, **Past State Regent Elaine Klesic**, **Past State Regent Mary Impellizeri**, **Past State Regent Mary Ziesig**, and **Immediate Past State Regent Heather Rave**.

Other special guests included **Past National Director M. Susan Champion-Hicks** from Wisconsin, **Oregon Past State Regent Irene Duda** and Pilgrimage Director **LeAnn Brand** from Georgia.

The music ministers included the State Regent's children: **RJ, Katie & Matthew Duran** along with **Nassau County Legislator Debbie Mulé**. The Offertory gifts were presented by husbands **Hector Duran** and **Michael Sterling** and niece **Morgan Breindel**.

A lovely dinner dance celebration followed the Mass. A great time was had by all!



Proud mother Mary Blaney smiles with her two NY State Regent daughters. She's the reason they are in this game!



Connie prepares to process to the altar.



Heather beams as Fr. Ralph thanks her for her years of service and dedication to the members of New York State.



Katie and Debbie led the congregation in song as Matthew & RJ sing and play along.



Robed Officers and Past State Regents pose with our State Chaplain



Judy listens to Fr. Ralph as Heather & Helene look on.



Elaine, Mary, and Mary assist with the ceremony led by Emily & Fr. Ralph



Theresa & Hector enjoying the party.



Tina lights her candle during the ceremony.



District Deputies Pat Rivers, Patsy Gavin, Karen Rave, Elizabeth Breindel & Jane Magno-D'Anna at Mass.



Patti is all smiles.



Members pledge their support to the new State Officers.



Father Ralph is Installed as State Chaplain

AROUND THE STATE



Court St. Pius X #1690 Celebrate 100th Birthday

On Sunday, March 7th, 23 members of **Court St. Pius X #1690, Levittown**, joined by quite a few Rosarians and a couple of husbands, participated in a car parade to honor dear member, **Helen Dowd**, on her centennial birthday. Presenting Helen with flowers, balloons, homemade scones and more than 100 birthday cards collected from members and friends (near and far) the attendees gathered on the front lawn of the home of Helen's daughter, Patricia.

In addition, Kate Murray, Nassau County Town Clerk; and Nassau County Legislators Denise Ford and John Ferretti were in attendance to present Helen with a special Citation from the county.



The bag packing contingency. Back row: Alice Ryan, Carol Shepard; middle row: Linda Jurain, MaryAnn Hogan, Diane Meore, Joanne Vaccarino, Patty Ryan, and Maureen Haas; seated: Helene Shepard

Archdiocese Seminary Project: Goodie Bags

The Past Regents and Officers Chapter of the Archdiocese of New York prepared 100 Goodie Bags for the seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, and the Cathedral Seminary House of Formation, Douglaston, to help get them through Finals Week.

This was accomplished with the assistance of the members of **Court St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville**. Goodies were purchased and packed by the members, then delivered on Monday, April 26, 2021. The bags contain nourishing snacks and spiritual encouragement, and were presented with our prayers for their success.



Pictured on the steps of the seminary at Dunwoodie are: Father George Bruno, Dean, Deacon Matthew Breslin, Most Rev. James Massa, Rector of the Seminary, Maureen Haas, Member and Mother of Seminarian, Joseph Haas. Helene Shepard, President of the Past Regents and Officers Chapter



Father Michael Sears, Rector of Cathedral Seminary at Douglaston and Seminarians were grateful for the goodies. Here they graciously pose to thank Theresa Duran, New York State Regent, and Helene Shepard, Past National Regent.

Looking Forward to Serving

PATTI DRIVANOS, STATE SECRETARY

Volunteering has been a way of life for me! As a young adult I helped the ticket committee for a Las Vegas night; since then I have been serving the Church in various roles. My grandchildren know if they can't reach me at home, they should try looking for my car in the Church parking lot!

I am the oldest of 5 children and have a close relationship with my siblings including a group text chat which sometimes blows up my phone! I was married to the late Strat Drivanos for 22 years, have 3 lovely stepchildren and 6 wonderful grandchildren.

I have been a Catholic Daughter since 2012. I attended a CDA sponsored event and a member invited to come to the next Court meeting. So glad she did that because I did, and I joined!

I was proud to represent my court at my first NYS convention in 2013. It further confirmed my feelings this is a wonderful organization, and I should do everything in my power to support it.

During my 9 years as a Catholic Daughter, I have been Financial Secretary, Regent and , since 2015, the NYS Circle of Love Quality of Life Chairman. I look forward to serving you as your State Secretary for the next two years.

This Treasurer's Travels

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

My Dear Sisters in Christ, Spring has finally sprung, and so refreshing to see everything blooming, people getting outside, and now starting to meet in person!

My husband and I traveled to Long Island for the Installation Mass, and being installed as State Treasurer was not only special and beautiful, but very comforting to be with my Catholic Daughter Sisters again. Theresa and her family were very welcoming and all were made to feel at home. My husband also said he can cross off his bucket list of driving in NYC!

I'd like to thank the Courts who send me newsletters of their meetings, it's nice to see what we are all doing in these special times; for all the invitations for special events, I wish I could attend more; and notes congratulating me for State Treasurer! I also welcome Tina and Patti to the State Board; it will be a pleasure to work together to keep Catholic Daughters strong and growing!

Please remember: **all money turned in for NY State CDA must be sent to State Secretary Patti Drivanos** first at 218 Greencrest Drive, Scotchtown, NY 10941. Patti will record transactions, and mail checks to me for deposit.

Please make sure if sending a Court check that there are two signatures, and write in memo line what check is for. This makes checks getting deposited quicker.

Thank you again ladies for your support for the State Board! Stay strong, safe, and hope we meet you all at Pray & Play!

Just A Few Reminders

- Checks are still being submitted to the National Projects, Sale of Articles, Mass Intentions and State Secretary that we need to return. All checks **MUST** be made out to **"Catholic Daughters of the Americas"** not to a Chairman, nor an Officer's name, nor to National Projects, nor New York State Court. And if a check is returned to you with an error, please send a new check.
- Remember, it is not necessary to use more than one check when submitting donations for National Projects. Just enclose a list of where you want your money applied.
- Also, intentions and donations for the New York State Mass Card Enrollments need to be sent 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 Chairman of Sale of Articles** at: 716-668-3047 or mariebolt@gmail.com.

Return the 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. Ralph Sommer**.

- State and National dues bills and Marie C. Curry Seminary & Scholarship assessments **do not** require a vote of the court; **they are to be paid as soon as they are received**.

Divine Mercy Visitation Group

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

Jesus said to Faustina (Diary entry 742): 'I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere.'

By the time you read this, we should be smelling the burgers on the barbecue and eating fresh corn and watermelon. I pray that you all will have a refreshing and peaceful summer and although we will be relaxing more, I have something I'd like to you pray about during July and August and organize as of September...a **Divine Mercy Visitation (DMV)** group.

Many of our courts have experienced the loss of members, either to COVID, cancer, accident or other illness. I was reading an article entitled, A Bedside 'Prescription' for the Sick and Dying, by Jay Hastings. In this article Hastings states,

"Doctors have been known to tell the sick and dying that there is nothing else that can be done for them. Nothing else? There's nothing further from the truth.

We can do something for them. We can give them the image of The Divine Mercy (the easiest way is in the form of a prayer card) and we can pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy for them, as our Lord instructed. After all, even if someone's days on earth may be few, there's heaven to consider. We need to do what we can to get them into heaven!"

In my Court a few years ago, we organized a group of ladies who volunteered to visit a dying member or a dying member's immediate family and pray the chaplet in that person's presence. I will never forget the first time we visited a member in her small apartment. They're were about 7 of us and we prayed with her. We had a large photo of the Divine Mercy, we had laminated

prayer sheets to follow and we had our rosaries. It was a blessed experience for all of us. Now, because of COVID, we have prayed on Facebook with the dying person listening in and, if possible, participating as well. It has been a good substitute for the in-person experience and I encourage all courts to consider doing this until the pandemic ends. There is however no better way to care for the dying than an actual visit if that is at all possible. And so my proposal.

I ask each Court in the state to set up a **Divine Mercy Visitation** group. The size should probably be about 5 members willing to visit their dying sisters and pray the Chaplet. The group should have a large picture of The Divine Mercy and a stand, printed prayers to follow, a candle, a small prayer card of the Divine Mercy to leave with her and maybe some music if available. A leader of prayer should be decided upon at the group's first meeting. All Court members should be made aware of the DMV and that the group will visit a member with her permission or the permission of the family. I am available to talk with the DMV prayer leader and will answer any questions and lend whatever assistance I can. New York State CDA could be the shining example to other courts. Remember Jesus' message to St. Faustina, "My daughter, encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given to you. It pleases Me to grant everything they ask of Me by saying the chaplet. ... Write that when they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge but as the merciful Savior" (Diary, 1541).

We can do this. We are a prayerful sisterhood and there is no greater gift that we can give to each other than the gift of Heaven. Think of all the souls who will rejoice because of our prayers for them to the merciful Savior. What better way to follow the theme for the next two years of 'seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.' I pray that you will be successful in this undertaking. May the summer bring you peace. God bless.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PILGRIMAGE WITH NY STATE CDA

6 DAYS, OCTOBER 18-23, 2021 FROM NEW YORK (JFK)
PRICE \$2,350 ALL INCLUSIVE (EXCEPT LUNCHES)

Pilgrimage led by State Regent Theresa Duran & State Chaplain Fr. Ralph

For more information, go to cdanys.org/pilgrimage

Or contact: Mrs. LeAnn Brand Call toll free: 1-833-910-1545 Email: LeAnn@lpjp.org

New Merchandise Available

To order, contact State Chairman
of Sale of Articles Linda Bolt at:
59 Caldwell Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224
716-668-3047
mariebolt@gmail.com



**Purple
Prayer
Warrior
T-Shirt**

\$15



**2-Sided
V-Neck
Theme
T-Shirt**

\$15



**2-Sided
Purple Theme
Polo Shirt**

\$25

**Navy
Scoop Neck
Theme T-Shirt**

\$20



**Embroidered
Indigo Zip-Up
Hoodie**

\$35



Your New York State leadership team: (left to right) State Secretary Patti Drivanos, First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel, National Regent-Elect Emily Guilherme, State Chaplain Fr. Ralph Sommer, State Regent Theresa Duran, Second Vice State Regent Tina Bigelow, State Treasurer Judy Sterling

New York State is Looking for Leaders!

Over the summer, the State Board will be discussing District Deputy & State Chairman appointments. If you are interested in serving New York State CDA in these or any capacity over the next two years, please contact State Regent Theresa Duran at tduran@optonline.net

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.

Important Dates

JUN 1st	Birthday of Past National Regent Helene Shepard
JUN 3rd	Corpus Christi
JUN 13th	Priest Appreciation Day
JUN 18th	CDA Instituted in 1903
JUN 14th	Flag Day
JUN 20st	Father's Day
JUL 4th	Independence Day
JUL 15th-18th	State Officer Training, Scottsdale, AZ
JUL 30th-AUG 1st	Pray & Play: Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington
AUG 6th-8th	Pray & Play: Christ The King Retreat House, Syracuse
AUG 9th	September Rising Dawn Deadline
AUG 15th	Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary
AUG 19th	Birthday of State Regent Theresa Duran
AUG 26th	Birthday of Immediate Past State Regent Heather Rave
AUG 27th-29th	Pray & Play: St. Vincent Pallotti Center, Monroe
SEP 6th	Labor Day
SEP 8th	Birthday of The Blessed Mother
SEP 10th-12th	Pray & Play: Camp Guggenheim, Saranac Lake