



The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

September 2021

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

Visit CDANY.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.

There Is No I In Team!

TERESA DURAN, STATE REGENT

My Dear Sisters,

To say I have been stressed is an understatement. This summer has come with a number of challenges, a ton of commitments to be met, lot's of paperwork, an unexpected surgery (gall bladder, I am fine!), and a LOT of reward. Yet, I feel tired, overworked, frustrated.

The other day, I mentioned to First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel that felt overwhelmed. Immediately, Connie said, "First, if there is anything I can do – just let me know. Please. You shouldn't be overwhelmed..."

I cannot tell you how much that helped! Not that it made everything go away or go right right away, but it consoled me. It was then that I realized that the cheesy sayings are often true. Most pointedly: There is no I in team.

I began to think about (and appreciate) the support I get from "my team" on the State Board – Connie, Tina, Patti, Judy – and how much they support and help me to solve the challenges of this job (Helene & Mary too!). I thought about my team at home – Hector, RJ, Katie, Matt – and how they love and help out in so many big and small ways that make my life not easier, but more enjoyable. I thought about my team at work – Tat, Amy, Pat, Caralyn, Wendie, Paul, Jim (& many more) – and how they make those stressful workdays bearable and doable.

There have been quite a few courts that I hear "Regent" stories from lately.

Stories where there either is no "I" at all and stories where the "I" takes over the team. That's not how CDA is supposed to work!

A Regent should not have to bear ALL responsibilities and pressures of a court. Their main job is to lead the court and preside at meetings, other than that, Officers and Chairmen should be handling things: refreshments, fundraisers, newsletters, parish contact... these can all be handled by others lest the Regent become overwhelmed.

On the other had, we have courts where the Regent holds the reigns so tight that it is all "I." Our Bylaws state that a Regent may serve 2 terms. If you are on #3 (or more), I implore you start today to find a replacement for next year.

History proves that when a court has the same Regent for 8, 12, 20 years, the court is weak and will fold as soon as she is gone. It doesn't matter that she is "so good at it," it doesn't matter that "she wants to do it." It is neither healthy nor permitted. Remedy it please.

There is no I in team, there is no I in our Court either. National and State newsletters are to be shared with the court members in a timely manner, not kept a secret by the Regent.

Communication is key! It was upsetting to hear about courts where the members knew nothing of Pray & Play,



Continued on page 2



Who Was That Masked Man?

REV. RALPH SOMMER, STATE CHAPLAIN

I recently printed a version of this column in my church bulletin and in the local newspaper and received a lot of encouraging feedback. So I thought it might be a good read for the Catholic Daughters too!

Readers of a certain age will remember listening to or watching the adventures of the Lone Ranger who rode throughout the west fighting outlaws. He wore a mask – which I imagine was uncomfortable in the desert and probably restricted his vision. But it was what made him memorable and cool!

Today we're in the midst of new conversations about wearing masks of a different kind in an effort to combat the outlaw called COVID-19. I've thought that mask-wearing was over once I got the vaccine and I was resistant to even considering masking up again. But like the stories of the Lone Ranger, the COVID situation seems to be more like a serial adventure rather than a one-time tale. So recently I've put my mask back on when indoors at stores or other locations.

It wasn't required any more than the Lone Ranger was required to wear his mask. But I think it is as noble. Some of us who are vaccinated can be carrying the virus even though we don't have any symptoms. And we could be spreading it to the unvaccinated – especially children who can't get the vaccine. I was as heartbroken as everyone else to have buried those who died from this disease and I don't want to be even unknowingly responsible for infecting another person.

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone is willing to come after me: let him deny himself, and take up his cross every day, and follow me." (Luke 9:23) What if we were to substitute the word "cross" with the word "mask"? Could we see that denying ourselves and wearing a mask is one way to love our neighbor? I suspect that there will be a number of people who will declare any new mask mandates to be outrageous and an assault on our freedom. There is nothing outrageous about the masked men, women and children fighting the dangers of the new variant of the virus. Indeed this is as noble as it is annoying. I can put up with annoying because I see my mask as a sign of care rather than as a sign of oppression.

Think of all the other noble things we've done that were just plain annoying: changing diapers, driving our kids to countless practices, games or other events, food shopping...the list can go on and on. True, we do these things out of necessity but we realize that as annoying as they are, these chores serve a bigger purpose than our own inconvenience.

Whether you choose to wear a mask or not, whether there will be new mandates or not I urge everyone to at least be civil about it. Declaring mask wearing to be some kind of "heinous oppression" is a sign of frustration that we haven't gotten clear of this pandemic yet, and it is also one more effect the disease is having on our society and our own mental health. This disease can turn us against each other and spread a communal contamination that each of us can stop by being care-filled in how we speak or post.

May the Lord keep us all safe! Father Ralph

Continued from front cover

know nothing about the Pilgrimage, don't even know who the State Officers are...

How can we expect members to be invested and involved if they have no idea what is going on?

We are teams, we must work together, In Unity & Charity, for the success of our personal lives, our courts and our great order!

So, thank you TEAM. Keep me in your prayers and I will get through all this paperwork. Keep helping one another and the world will be a better place. Keep striving to improve your courts and CDA in NYS will be a force to be reckoned with!

In Unity & Charity,

Theresa



Speaking of Paperwork...

Court Regents and DDs: You may have recently received a mailing that contained an updated New York State Directory (thank you Connie for tackling that project for me) along with a Park Lane Jewelry brochure and order sheet. (See the back page of this newsletter for more information on the jewelry sale.)

Please review the directory and inform us immediately if there are any corrections needed in your contact information.

The Perfect One Was Crucified

CONNIE BREINDEL,
FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

While preparing to write my article I was tossing several ideas around in my head and I kept coming up to this saying “**The Perfect One was crucified**”. If you are a faithful follower of the NY State Court on Facebook, you may have heard this or read it there. My second mother, **Rosemary Fantaske**, stated it to me when I was upset about something that I had done wrong. (I honestly don’t even remember what it was.) She told the story of when she first worked at the church rectory. When she was upset about an error she had made, Msgr. Richard Rutecki (may he rest in peace) took her hand and said, “There, there, Rosemary, the Perfect One was crucified.” She then realized that everyone makes mistakes.

It is true, we are not perfect, and we do make mistakes. We can all think back to a time when we did make a mistake. I know I make them often. (Sorry Alison for spelling your name with two Ls at the Huntington Pray & Play.) Knowing “the Perfect One was crucified” has allowed me to be more confident and do more things than I ever would have had Rosemary not told me. Who knows? I may not have stepped up to be on the Board of NY State Court for fear of making mistakes.

Although, we do need to acknowledge our mistakes and learn from them, we shouldn’t dwell on them or fear them because the Perfect One was indeed crucified.

Why am I writing about this topic now, you may be asking yourself? I am, because it is never too late to volunteer in your court to do something that you may not have done because of the fear of making a mistake. Babe Ruth is quoted with saying “Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game.” Can you imagine if Babe Ruth never played the game because of fear? Why not chair an event or step up to be an officer in your court? Officers are vital for a court’s survival. You can help maintain that life by becoming a leader. Each and every one of us have talents that we need to share with others. Start sharing yours in your court.

Many courts take the summer months off and are just getting back to meeting. Now is the time to volunteer. Don’t forget that local officer elections happen next May but it is never too early to start thinking and praying about becoming one. You will find the confidence that you never realized you had when you remember “the Perfect One was crucified.”

WINNERS!

The following National Awards were
announced at the State Officers
Conference in Scottsdale, AZ:

Father Leonard Bachmann Graduate Scholarship

Rebecca Zinsley Sponsored by
Ct. St. Clare #912, Staten Island

Newsletter

Category VI Division I (State Courts)

3RD PLACE (Tie) New York State Court

Category II Division II (Local Courts)

2ND PLACE Court St. Ann, Mother of Mary
#2419, Washingtonville

Education

Computer Art: Division II

1ST PLACE **Jessica Servellon**
Court Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

Music: Division III

1ST PLACE **Evan Carroll**
Court Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

Essay: Division III

2ND PLACE **Grace Kurzweil**
Court Nativity of Our Lady #931,
Brockport

Poetry: Division I

3RD PLACE **Timothy Williams**
Court Bishop Kellenberg #1756,
North Merrick

Poetry: Division IV

2ND PLACE **Patricia Ziegler**
Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park
(See page 9 for the poem)



Breathing The Spirit Into Our Courts

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT

My Dear Sisters of New York,

I hope and pray you are all doing well as we enter a time that hints at returning to a normalized lifestyle. As we take measures to ensure a safe return to everyday life, I hope you are taking an opportunity to schedule and plan the first of many Catholic Daughter court meetings. It is my hope that a breath of the Holy Spirit may renew and enliven our courts and bring our fellow Catholic Daughters back to meetings and events. Let us use this opportunity to re-initiate a recruiting push and extend invitations to our sisters in faith who are not familiar with Catholic Daughters and may be yearning for fellowship and community. After this past year and a half, I know many of the women in our parish pews are looking for a social and faith-filled outlet. What better outlet than your beautiful Courts?

It is wonderful to hear that the Pray and Play Retreats are such a success and so many are taking the time to attend. I wish I were able to join you, but my schedule did not allow for it – this time!

I am excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you in your events. I absolutely hope to see you at the National Convention in Puerto Rico in July, 2022. Please know that you are in my prayers and I offer all thanks and glory to God for your devotion and dedication to the Gospel, and the mission of the Catholic Daughters.

In Christ's Grace, Emily

**CDA National Convention
will take place in beautiful
Puerto Rico, July 20-24, 2022**

**Start saving and get ready to have a great time
learning, sharing, praying & playing.**



PRAY AND PLAY RETREAT WEEKENDS

Our first Pray & Play, held at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington was a smashing success! Here are a few reviews:

- You helped us identify what we ought to do and what we want to do. We let the “oughts” go up in smoke. We concentrated on walking as sisters in the path God wants us to travel.
- This was a wonderful uplifting experience. It brought joy, peace, and friendship. We met new people, reunited with others and drew closer to God. The board did a wonderful job involving everyone and spreading faith, belief, and friendship.
- Thank you all for making this retreat so beautiful and memorable. I received so much Mercy & Love from everyone. My deep appreciation for all your hard work.
- Thank you for a wonderful “Pray & Play” weekend. It was the perfect balance of spirituality, friendship, and love – Love you all!
- The retreat was so much more than I expected. It has given me a lot of food for thought. I have a lot of homework to do. This board really did an amazing spiritual job!

The retreat was led by the State Officers with presentations by **State Regent Theresa Duran**, **First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel**, and **Past National Regent Helene Shepard**.

There is still time to register for the final Pray & Play in Saranac Lake on September 10-12th. Find more information and the registration form on cdanys.org or call Connie at 716-823-0741 for details

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

Empowered By The Spirit

TINA BIGELOW, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

I love meditating on the Scriptural Rosary and one of my favorite parts of the Glorious Mysteries is when the angel appears first to the guards watching Jesus' tomb and then again to the Holy Women when they come to anoint Jesus' body.

Both the guards and the Holy Women were frightened while at the tomb, however their reasons were completely different.

The guards, "rich in spirit" and at the power of those who killed him,

were at the tomb because of the fear that his body would be stolen.

The Holy Women, "poor in spirit" and powerless to those who killed him, were at the tomb because of their love for Jesus.

When the angel approaches the guards, His presence is with an earthly power by shaking the earth and moving the very large stone, causing them to flee in terror, but when He approaches the Holy Women, His presence is of

compassion that calms their fears and comforts their grieving. He clearly shows that the "rich in spirit" were powerless to their fear, but the "poor in spirit" received the gift of empowerment.

As we carry out our mission to Seek Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly with God, may we always know that we are powerless to our fears, but are empowered through our Gifts from the Holy Spirit.

As **Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM**, said, "We must see God in the other; access God in ourselves; and experience God in a new way that is larger than an Enforcer."

Traveler's Prayer

*Matthew, Mark, Luke & John, bless the wheels we ride upon.
Bless the driver and the driven. Don't let us see an
accident, don't let us cause an accident, don't let us be
in an accident, and keep all those bad guys away. Amen*

COVID Has Truly Been An Education For Us All

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn. —Benjamin Franklin

I hope this article finds all of you well and safe. COVID-19 has certainly continued to impact our lives; especially as the Delta variant runs rampant. Thankfully, most of our Courts (mine included) have been able to resume many of their regular business, spiritual and social activities and/or created "workarounds" (including remote meetings, outdoor events, limited attendance events, etc.) The past year and a half have certainly been an "education" for all of us as we adapt to all the changes in our daily routines.

Speaking of education, I am honored and blessed to have been

reappointed by our worthy **State Regent Theresa Duran**, to the position of New York State Education chairman for the next two years. In addition, our worthy First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel will be providing me with guidance. For those of you who may be seeing my name for the first time and wondering about me, I have been a member of **Court Queen of Peace #1534, Wappingers Falls**, for 18 years. During this time, I have been Vice Regent, Regent and am current Recording Secretary of my Court. I am also a member of the **Archdiocese Past Regents and Officers Chapter** (current Secretary),

1903 Society and the **New York State and National CDA Convention Choirs** (since inception).

My goals for the next two years are to continue to promote and increase enthusiasm and participation in the Education Contests, spur interest among the Courts in education in general and provide answers to any of you who may have questions or concerns about CDA's education programs (I very much enjoy receiving your emails and phone calls. Hopefully, I have been able to help those of you who have contacted me in the past).

My contact information is **mewoll@aol.com** or **(845) 297-5250**

Women Supporting Women At All Ages

KATHY KNOTT STATE CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH/JCDA



This is an exciting time for JCDA with National having officially rejoined our programs under one National umbrella.

Originally founded in 1925, the JCDA program for girls 10 to 18 years old has been well known for contributing to **Habitat for Humanity**, donating to **Smile Train** surgery for children and supporting retired religious through **SOAR**. In addition, now the YOUTH of our time have been speaking out against pornography and abortion. We are encouraging the girls to go for the GOLD now in everything they do.

We are reminded of the value of the *feminine genius* throughout history. The marvelous gifts of wit, passion, spirit and foresight are not limited to the mature woman. Our teen girls are such a joy to behold. Their open mindedness is so refreshing! The girls also seem to team up—2 heads being better than one—as they embark on their chosen projects. The girls serving in youth groups and JCDA have a great advantage in knowing the bonds of friendship among women at such a young age. We hope to offer them retreat opportunities in the upcoming year.

Thinking of themselves as *Daughters of a King* the girls carry themselves with poise, promise and the message of the Lord. You and I are blessed to see their lives blossom and unfold in marvelous ways.

Many Blessings, keep in touch, Kathy Knott NYS Chair
kknott639@gmail.com or 631-418-7424

Proper Protocol: A Necessity For Every Court

CHARILLA S. CONNER,
STATE CHAIRMAN OF PROTOCOL

I asked God what he would have me do and He answered, “help when someone asks.” So here I am, writing you as the Chair of the Protocol State Project.

I have been a member of **Court Nativity of Our Lady #931, Brockport**, for 31 years. I’ve been a Regent, Vice-Regent, and Recording Secretary; a District Deputy for oodles of years; the Secretary and President of the **Diocese of Rochester Past Regents Club**. I’ve been to a goodly number of State Conventions and 2 National Conventions. I’ve found I get a lot out of CDA by being involved in my Court, my State and at the National level. And as Mother would remind me, “It’s amazing what you can do when you don’t know your can’t.”

Protocol is just etiquette and manners. It’s a simple thing. I’ve had situations that were difficult to resolve. I was the Regent, so asked my District Deputy. Got a good answer but then needed more. Asked the area State Representative, one of the State Officers (God bless you Marianne). I was able to get the reassurance and guidance we needed to resolve the issue. As with any task, we should start with the closest reference, then reach further as needed. It’s frankly common sense and we all have lots of that.

When in doubt, you can reference the **Bylaws** and **Tools of the Trade**. Or ask me, I’m here to be the reference and help and, more importantly, support that you may need.

News From National

By now, all courts should have received the September edition of the National Quarterly Newsletter. This newsletter not only contains the names of the winners of last year’s contests and scholarships but all instructions and forms for the 2022 Education Contests, Newsletter Contest, Website Contest, & Scholarships. Please review, copy and get these proper forms to your Court Chairmen and/or anyone who might participate.

The newsletter also includes guidelines for nominating the CDA 2022 Woman of the Year. Please review the guidelines and consider if there is someone you wish to nominate.

The Blessing of Family

MARYLYNN BORST, STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

Greetings to all New York State CDA sisters! I was very happy to accept our State Regent's request to be State Chairman of Family for the next two years. I am in my third year as Regent of my court in Levittown and have been a Catholic Daughter for 12 years (though I was a Juniette – they used to have that level – when I was a young girl).

I was blessed to come from a large family – with an even larger extended family – 26 first cousins on just my mom's side! All of our celebrations were joyful, and even now, when we are together for a happy or sad occasion, each of us cousins comments on the blessings we have received by being members

of our extended family!

We are all aware that families come in all different shapes and sizes. A very fitting description is that a family is made up of the people who support and love you, and the people you can confide in and trust. We can have biological families, adopted families, work families, Church families, CDA families, and the list goes on and on! Each year, our courts are encouraged to choose a project for the Family Spoke of the Circle of Love. As we begin our CDA year, think about what project your Court will engage in. Some suggestions are: Family Rosary • Pajama Night with Favorite Author • Picnic in the



Parking Lot • Trick or Treating in the Parking Lot • Supporting Religious Education Families • Adoration for Teens • Reaching out to members of our CDA family who may be homebound or hospitalized. The list goes on and on.

Get your creative juices flowing so that early next year, when your Court is asked to complete its report on the Family Spoke of the Circle of Love, my mailbox will be overflowing with entries and great projects!

THANK YOU PROJECT

Our Statewide Family project is **The Thank You Project**. The purpose of the project is to collect thank

you cards that will be mailed to service personnel in all branches of the armed forces throughout the year. We are asking every court to participate in this event.

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

Some things NOT to do when writing your letters: Kids' drawings are great but do not use glitter or any other crafting materials (googly eyes, puffy stickers, pipe cleaners, etc.); Do not discuss inappropriate things; Avoid politics or political statements; Avoid lengthy religious discussions but saying you are praying for them is great; Avoid making holiday-specific cards, as the troops will be sent letters throughout the year; No items, trinkets or monetary donations for the troops will be accepted – please do not include any in your letters.

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

Place the letters/cards in a manila envelope or small box and send them to: **Ct. St. Pius X #1690, The Thank You Project, 35 Abbey Lane, Levittown, NY 11756**

Please have your bundles organized and sent to Sandy Leonard before November 1, 2021. We will make sure the letters get into the hands of the right group to be sent to our military men and women in a secure and timely manner.

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

National Projects & Charities

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Happy Fall! Where did the summer go? Truly the older we get the more quickly time flies, and fall still finds us in unknown areas when it come to COVID – especially in northern New York – making it difficult to make concrete plans for our 2021-22 CDA meetings and events.

The one thing we can depend upon is the faith and trust we have in our God as *we seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with God* (Micah 6:8) as we engage in creative and spiritual programs which provide members with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents in meaningful ways”, using the words in part, of our CDA mission statement. Yes, our courts need to be **spiritually** active, and many of us may need to think about that, but we are also a **charitable** organization, and being a part of a **state** and **national** chapter our local courts, we have financial commitments.

We are asked to support the five **National Projects** with an annual donation of at least \$20. This should be sent to me to record for the New York State donation. If you contribute in this way, your court will be recognized at the NYS Convention. Only if your court's donation is given through the NYS Projects/Charities Chair is your Court credited. If your donation is sent to the organization itself or to the National office, we are not made aware of the donation, and it will not be acknowledged at the NYS Convention.

There is no set amount for you to donate for the 10 **National Charities** (yes, there is a difference). Some courts donate to all, some choose 3-4 on a rotating basis yearly. Only **one** check is sent to me – just include a list of where your funds are to be directed. Please be sure that the check is made out to **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**, not to NYS CDA, or anything else or it will be returned as our bank will cash only as I have written. Remember: two signatures are needed on the check, please.

CDA National Projects

Habitat for Humanity Holy Cross Family Ministries Labouré Society
NCOSE (National Coalition On Sexual Exploitation) SOAR

CDA National Charities

Apostleship of the Sea Catholic Extension Covenant House
Catholic Relief Services Disaster Relief Missionaries of Charity
Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception
Pontifical North American College Smile Train Tutwiler Clinic.

In closing, I hope you enjoy the beauty of fall. Use your prayer, creativity and talents to do whatever you can – within the restrictions you may or may not have – to host fundraisers in support of the National Projects and Charities. God bless you, your members and families. Stay safe, keep in touch with one another, especially the homebound.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime at lmudduck@aol.com

Victory! Praise God!

EILEEN PETERSON, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION

There are two recent legislative outcomes that are astonishing! The first is in the US Senate: Due to **Senator James Lankford** (R-OK) offering an amendment to the budget, **Senator Joe Manchin** (D-WV,) joined all Republicans in voting to preserve the pro-life Hyde Amendment in a 50-49 vote.

The second is in New York State: In a 3-0 ruling, a three judge panel of the Second Circuit of Appeals denied the **NY Attorney General Letitia James** the ability to censor pro-LIFE speech of 13 defendants outside the abortuary **Choices Women's Medical Center** in Jamaica, NY.



Lastly, please pray for two year old little angel named **Alta Fixsler**. On July 9th, the British Court of Appeals essentially sentenced her to death for the “crime” of being a vulnerable baby valiantly struggling with brain damage. They will not treat her nor permit her to leave the country for medical care.

Many faiths and countries are uniting trying to protect this girl's right to LIFE. I was honored to have been interviewed as a champion of Alta's cause: cruxnow.com/interviews/2021/08/us-pro-lifer-campaigns-to-save-baby-alta-in-the-uk/

We as Catholic Daughters believe in the power of prayer. God can do anything. As of today, Alta still lives.

**District Deputy Pat Ziegler won 2nd Place in the
National Education Poetry Contest , Division IV**

Here is her beautiful poem:

*In my dream I saw two hands outstretched,
fingers open wide.*

*Upon waking I could hear God's voice,
He urged me to reply.*

*As I went through my hectic day,
my eyes peered left and right.*

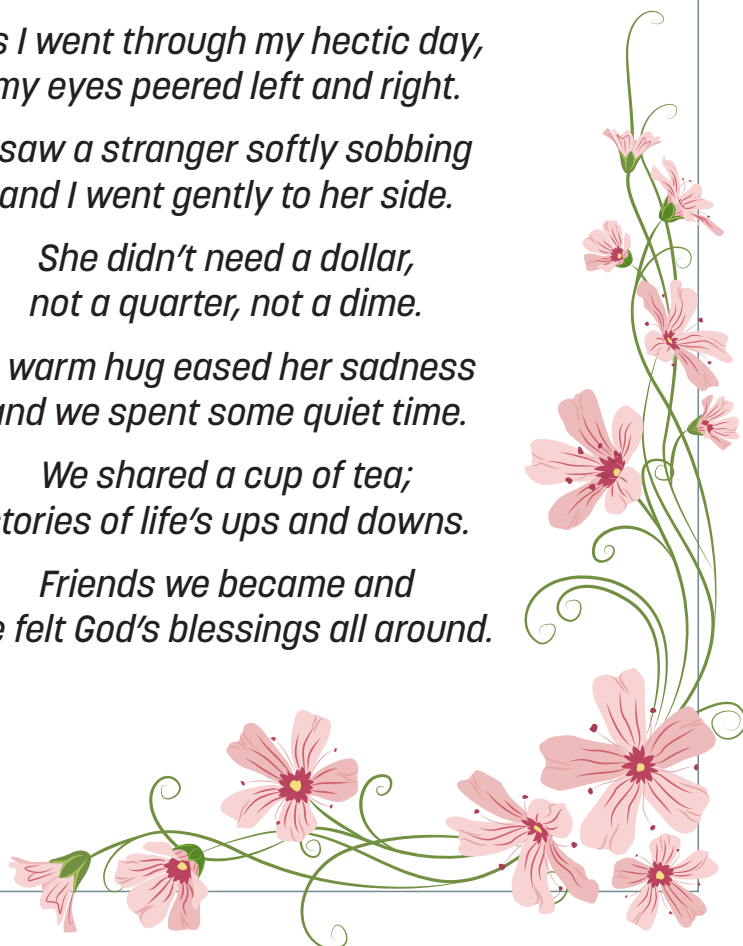
*I saw a stranger softly sobbing
and I went gently to her side.*

*She didn't need a dollar,
not a quarter, not a dime.*

*A warm hug eased her sadness
and we spent some quiet time.*

*We shared a cup of tea;
stories of life's ups and downs.*

*Friends we became and
we felt God's blessings all around.*



**All courts are asked to
please add all New York
State Officers to your
newsletter mail or email
list so that we may keep
up with what is happening
around the state.**

**Our addresses and email
addresses can be found
on the front cover of the
Rising Dawn and in the
State Directory.**

**Sunday, October 17th
is CDA Sunday**

Does your court have anything
special planned?

Share your event and your
photos on our Facebook page
at Catholic Daughters NY State
and submit for publication
here by forwarding to me
and to SHARE magazine by
forwarding the information
to **National Public relations**
Director Tom Panas at
cdashare@aol.com

**9/11/2001
PATRIOT DAY**

— WE WILL NEVER FORGET —

20th ANNIVERSARY





DIANE MEORE,
STATE CHAIRMAN FOR 1903 SOCIETY

had the pleasure of working with Helene for more than twenty years and was even her secretary during her time as National Regent.

I was with Helene when the **1903 Society** was first created, she served as the first chairman. The concept of the program is genius! As members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, each one of you owns a share of the National Headquarters in New York City. Tucked into a side street just off Central Park West and around the corner from the Dakota Hotel, this beautiful brownstone was built in 1910. By the late 1900s it was showing its age and was in need of major repairs. The 1903 Society was created to fund those repairs. As homeowners of this magnificent building, we all need to chip in to keep this aging beauty in tip-top shape.

In 2011, when the Society was first announced, our then State Regent, the late Penny Martin, pledged that NY would spearhead the effort by completing **10 Perpetual Pledges** in 10 years. That means that she hoped we would donate \$19,030 over the 10 years. To date, we have donated \$14,055.94, so we have our work cut out for us

In addition to a donation to assist the state in fulfilling our promise, please consider an individual or court donation. It's a wonderful way to honor or memorialize a past court officer, a deceased court member or a family member. There is more information available at **catholicdaughters.org**. Donations to the 1903 Society should be paid payable to Catholic Daughters of the Americas and mailed to me at: 143 Toleman Road, Washingtonville, NY 10992

I am pleased to have been asked by the State Board to serve as the 1903 Society Program Chairman for this term. By way of introduction, I am currently the Regent of **Court St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville**. Many of you may know me as Helene Shepard's secretary and Uber driver! I have

REMINDERS

- Checks are still being submitted to the National Projects, Sale of Articles, Mass Intentions and the 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.
- 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.

Thank You

Dear Scholarship Committee of the
NYS Catholic Daughters of the
Americas and Ms. Theresa Duren
Thank you very much for the
very generous award. It is very
much appreciated and will be
so helpful to help with college
expenses. Please keep me in your
prayers
Gratefully
Nicole Dario



CDA Leadership 101

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

As I began to write this message, I could not help but think of the song, *Seems Like Old Times*. However, I am also switching gears from Youth/JCDA to Leadership. So where do I begin? I really think, I need a refresher course and so I will start with **CDA Leadership 101**.

We all need to understand the answers to three questions. Before we do that, we must dispel the myth that all Leaders are born leaders. Not true! Leadership skills can be learned and practiced. Everyone is a leader from wherever they are, at this time, in their lives. Perhaps, one of the most important goals of our organization, in addition to spiritual growth, is the development of a strong leadership program. Without leaders, we cannot move forward with our mission. Now we are ready to answer the questions.

What is Leadership?

Leadership is the art of motivating a group of people to act toward achieving a common goal.

What are the most important qualities that a leaders should possess?

Truthfulness
Accountability
Assertiveness

Responsibility
Self-Awareness
Gratitude

Loyalty
Vision
Empathy

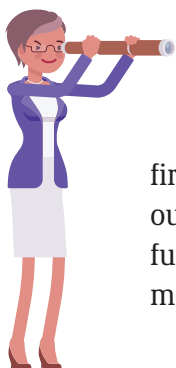
In the course of this term, we will work on developing these qualities.

What are the necessary skills that will make you a good leader?

The following Leadership Skills are important and necessary for success: **Communication, Motivation, Delegating, Positivity, and Responsibility**. These skills can be learned.

However, if we add **enthusiasm** to everything we do, we will be effective leaders. Enthusiasm is the feeling of excitement when the group gets the message and shares it with others. Without that excitement for Catholic Daughters, members of the group lose interest and the drive to make a difference and sustain the organization. It is the energy, fuel and blazing fire that get things done. Create that feeling in every member and our organization will grow beyond all expectations. Isn't it much more fun to attend a meeting where enthusiasm shines forth from every member? Then there is an expectation that great things will be done.

I will close with the words from Mother Teresa, *"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."*



AROUND THE STATE

Court St. Kateri and Andre #2663 Looks To Serve St. Joseph's Outreach Center

When St. Joseph's Church in Treadwells Mills closed, the parish had to make a decision to either sell it or keep, so they decided to bury the St. Joseph statue and pray for his intercession.

Shortly after, **Past State Chaplain Fr. Scott Seymour** had a dream that Jesus told him "If you leave, who is going to take care of My poor?" With the permission of Bishop Terry LaValley and the parish council, the decision was made to keep it. Through the generosity of the community and a couple of grants, this building is now the home of a soup kitchen that serves 275 to 300 takeout meals every Thursday throughout Clinton County.

In addition, JCEO (a private, not-for-profit human service agency that serves the residents of Clinton and Franklin Counties), has moved their offices into this center and partners with Catholic Charities to offer a variety of assistance to those in need. The center also is the home of a food pantry, and a thrift store. This outreach center networks with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), E-MDT (for Elder Abuse Preventions), haircuts at BOCES, High School Equivalency diploma classes, and free tutoring. The parish is now renovating



Court members of St. Kateri and Andre #2663, Morrisonville, posed for this photo during their July meeting at the St. Joseph's Outreach Center.

the old rectory to serve as a respite home for people who need temporary shelter.

Due to the many programs offered, the center is always in need of monetary donations as well as people to volunteer their services. **Janet Altman**, as the court's Circle of Love Chairperson, has been working with center to figure out where and how CDA members can volunteer their time and skills to help keep this center running efficiently and effectively.

Court Nilan #985 Hosts Kickoff Pot Luck Supper



Court Nilan #985, Highland, had their 2nd Annual Kickoff Pot Luck Dinner for surrounding courts.

This was an evening of fellowship and friendship. Father John Lynch lead us in prayer.

While some courts were unable to join because this was also the night they have their regular meeting (and we missed them) We were blessed to have four courts join us: **Court Of The Assumption # 690, Maybrook**,



Court Father John P. Mooney # 1921, Mahopac Court St. Ann, Mother of Mary # 2419, Washingtonville, and Court Our Lady of the Lake #2585, Patterson.

We would love for more Courts to join us in the future. If you would like to join us we would love to have you. Check our Facebook page at **Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Nilan #985** for future events.

Back To Life After COVID: Recharging The CDA Battery

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

Recently the State Officers attended the National State Officers' Conference and Workshop in Arizona. We renewed, reviewed, and recharged ourselves alongside National Officers, Directors, Priests, and State Officers from other courts and territories. While catching up with some old friends, we made many new friends. We all shared in the excitement and kindness with one and another, and I didn't want to leave! We renewed our commitment to Jesus, Mary, the Holy Spirit, Unity and Charity. We also focused on how important it is for us to continue moving forward with increasing our members and spreading the word of CDA!

During the workshops we reviewed just how difficult it was during COVID, but also celebrated how we survived. Now we need to get back to our regular schedules. We need to get back to our meetings, financial reviews, protocol, and most important our Spiritual Enhancement. We did learn a few new things, and will be sharing that information soon. The State Officers are available

to help anytime. We need our members to step-up to volunteer for District Deputies, Chairman for Circle of Love, etc. Let any State Officer know if you are willing to take on a task. We will train and support you! I would also encourage our local courts to be more involved in the Education Contests. Many categories had no entries. Time for New York State to show how strong we are! Things become difficult if we let them.

As I left Arizona, I felt recharged after COVID, and getting out and being able to socialize again safely, and excited to carry on as State Treasurer, State Supervisor, and proud member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas. I hope to meet many of you in the coming months, but sometimes other commitments were already made. Please feel free to contact any of the State Board for any reasons,



we are here because of you!

I would like to remind you all, when making out checks to the State, please make them out to; Catholic Daughters of the Americas, write in the memo line what the check is for, and Court checks need to have 2 signatures. Thank you all for everything you can and do for Catholic Daughters!

Rising Dawn Subscriptions

In our continuing efforts to save both money and trees, we continue to seek those who would be interested in receiving The Rising Dawn via email as opposed to in their mailbox.

An electronic version is not only more economical and environmentally friendly, it 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.

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

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

Holy Water

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

My name is Lucille (Lu) Koch and I have been a member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas for six years. It is an honor to currently be the Regent of **Court McLaughlin #422, Saratoga Springs**. My sincere thanks to Most Worthy State Regent Theresa Duran for reappointing me as the State Chairman for the Spiritual Enhancement spoke of the Circle of Love. I promise to do my best in this role and ask for your prayers and support.

It's that time of year again. The older we get, the faster the seasons seem to pass. It's early Spring and then we turn around and it's July. Then, before we've eaten our last grilled steak, it's September and our busy world is beginning to pick up steam. Labor Day arrives and the children and grandchildren are back to school. We begin Court meetings. We can't stop the seasons to enjoy them more, so we go with the flow.

I hope that you have all had a good summer with time to relax, soak up the sun and play. I also hope your courts have been able to set up **Divine Mercy Visitation** groups. Remember, if you have any questions send me an email or text or phone call. I'd love to hear from you.

And now, a quick thought

There's a hotel fountain I pass nearly every day. There are four carved horse heads at the top of the fountain and from their mouths they spew water in a large graceful arc into a large circular granite basin. Sometimes on a really hot day my granddaughter will ask to touch the water and allow it to splash on her, refreshing her and making her giggle. One day out of the blue it occurred to me of how much, since the pandemic, I've missed blessing myself with holy water upon entering Church, of feeling that cool water upon my brow and how sometimes, in my hurry, I'd let it drip down my face and into my eyes. Holy water is a sacramental. It reminds us of our need to repent of our sins and be washed clean. Holy water is a protection from evil. Even **Saint Teresa of Avila** knew the power of holy water when she said, "From long experience I have learned that there is nothing like holy water to put devils to flight and prevent them from coming back again. They also flee from the Cross, but return; so holy water must have great virtue."

Holy water reminds us of our baptism. When we make the sign of the cross with holy water we recall our baptismal vows and our promise to reject Satan and

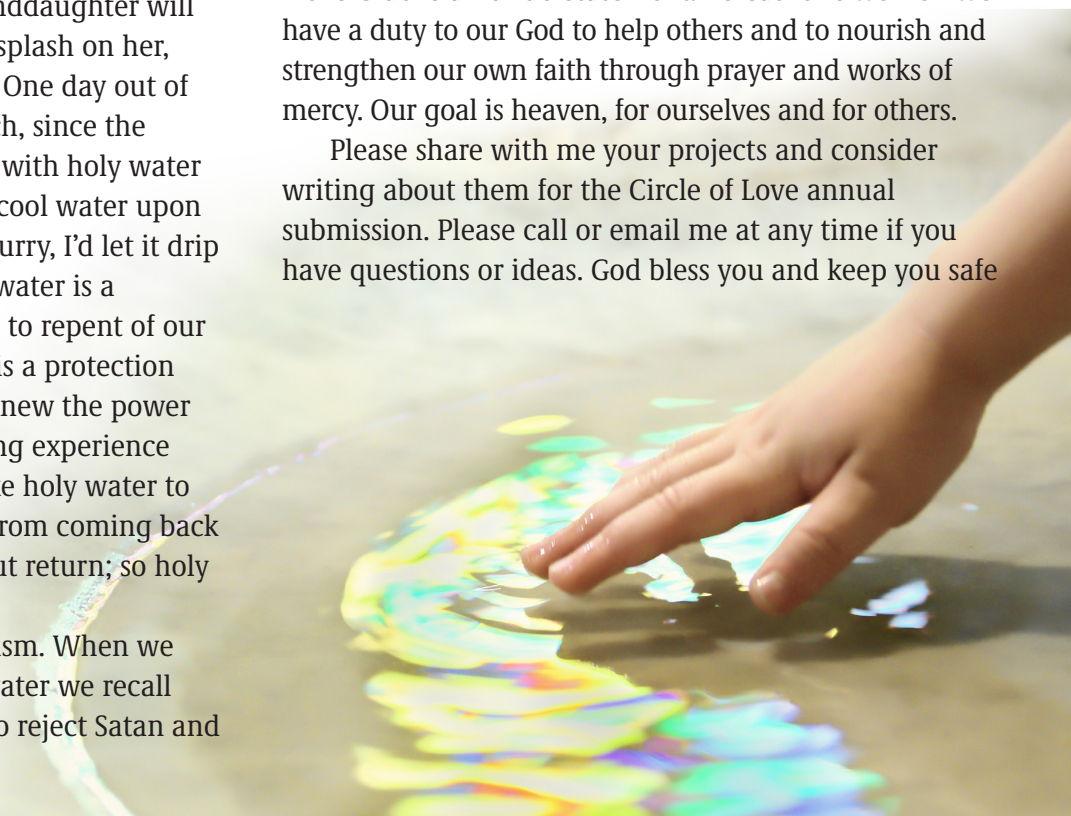
all his works and all his empty promises. So this is what I've done and I invite you to do the same. I have purchased a holy water font for my home and placed it by my front door. When I go out and when I come in, I bless myself. It's my reminder. It's a sign of protection. It's a recollection of my baptism.

Thank you to the Holy Spirit who nudged me to recall the importance of holy water through the workings of a hotel fountain and the joyous giggles of my little sweet pea.

Looking ahead to the next two years, it is my desire to help courts do, in the words of **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**, "small things with great love." There are so many ways we can follow these words and first and foremost is the **Divine Mercy Visitation** group organized to visit the dying (see The Rising Dawn, March and June 2021). But there are other ways as well and I encourage you all, if you have not considered these, to add something new to your calendars.

This year, dare to do something new such as 'adopting' the home bound in your neighborhood, making and bringing small gifts to a local nursing home, organizing a day pilgrimage to The Divine Mercy National Shrine in Stockbridge Massachusetts or a shrine in your home area, getting involved in a local church's missions, starting a food drive for neighbors, holding a Day of Remembrance for deceased members, attending a State Court Pray & Play weekend the next time one is available, organizing a spiritual retreat with another court. To say we are not the PTA nor the Rotary nor the Lions Club is an understatement. As Catholic women we have a duty to our God to help others and to nourish and strengthen our own faith through prayer and works of mercy. Our goal is heaven, for ourselves and for others.

Please share with me your projects and consider writing about them for the Circle of Love annual submission. Please call or email me at any time if you have questions or ideas. God bless you and keep you safe



State Officers Gather Together In Arizona

PATTI DRIVANOS, STATE SECRETARY

Summer of 2021 was a busy one for me. I had opportunities to rest, relax and recharge. The first opportunity was visiting with my 6 grandchildren and rejoicing in their triumphs, listening to their future plans and praying for them.

I had the occasion to travel to Arizona for State Officers' training. Before the training began, I was able to visit family and sightsee in the Scottsdale area. Officer Training gave the NYS Board a lot of information to make us more effective leaders and tools to help each of you in building up your courts.

We made the conscious choice to not eat together so that we could fan out to meet other state officers from across the country. It was a great experience because we learned what challenges we each face but sharing ideas on things which have worked in their states. This sharing also led to our learning about a game which has brought us a lot of laughs.

The next opportunities involved hosting the Pray and Play retreats throughout the state with the NYS Board. These retreats were wonderful because we had time to get to know each other in new ways, pray together and explore and deepen our faith through thought provoking talks.

I hope each of you had the chance to rest, relax and recharge. Please know that the NYS Board is working hard for you and is available for questions and/or to share in your celebrations.

Chaplain's Corner

FR. ROBERT ORLOWSKI,
COURT CHAPLAIN,

CT. OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL #1311, BLASDELL

Greetings, my name is **Fr. Robert Orlowski** and I am the Chaplain for **Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311**. Growing up in Western New York I had a Great Aunt that was very involved with the Catholic Daughters and would often hear about what they were up to when I saw her at family events, but I never really grasped what the organization was all about.

Since becoming the Pastor of Our Mother of Good Counsel Parish I have learned what it means to be a Catholic Daughter. I have been the Chaplain of the court for almost ten years now and I'm still learning about the mission. The commitment to tradition and interactions with each other reflect the ideals which make the Catholic Daughters what they are.

What is that, you ask? Well, I have had the pleasure of watching these women come together, make plans, overcome obstacles, settle differences all within the framework of what it means to be a Catholic Daughter. Their efforts serve not only the Court but the greater community as well. They see no boundaries because Unity and Charity know no limits.

This strong sense of purpose has greatly influenced not only me but countless people. The members of the Catholic Daughters have helped me in my own ministry through prayer and gentle guidance and I am greatly appreciative of all they do as they remember their mission and lead with Unity and Charity into the future.



There is Still Time To Join Us For The **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

PARK•LANE

JEWELRY | EST. 1955

Enclosed with the recently mailed New York State Directory, you will find a brochure and order sheet for the **2021 State Fundraiser**: a jewelry sale through our friends at Park Lane Jewelry.

Park Lane Jewelry, the largest nationwide jewelry company and a family owned business, just celebrated their 66th Anniversary.

Jewelry is a timeless gift. At Park Lane there is something for every style and every budget. The jewelry is crafted with exceptional quality and comes with a full one-year guarantee.

The best part is, their fundraising program gives back a full 50% of sales to us. With Christmas right

around the corner and in person shopping something that many are still uncomfortable with, this is the perfect fundraiser at the perfect time.

The fundraiser is simple and hassle free. Orders can be placed online and all items are shipped directly to the buyer, no need for you to deliver. The direct link: parklanejewelry.com/store/start/fundraiser/2594 will be posted on the NYS website and on the Facebook page.

This year we can order from the entire Park Lane Brochure, not a limited collection **and** the orders will be shipped directly to you as soon as you order.

Please share this link with all members, friends, neighbors and family.

There is a fundraiser brochure and order form enclosed with the Directory for members that might not have access to the online platforms. Please share them with all of your members. This fundraiser begins now and will close on October 27th to assure delivery for Christmas.

Stock up now for Christmas, birthdays, Mother's Day and graduations...and help the NY State Court earn some much needed capital!

SOS! Send Other Stories

Please submit stories and photos by November 1st for our December issue.

Submit to tduran@optonline.net to share your story with the state! Let us know about successful fundraisers, impactful events and community involvement.

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

Sep 6th	Labor Day
Sep 8th	Birthday Of The Blessed Mother
Sep 10th-12th	Pray & Play: Camp Guggenheim, Saranac Lake
Sep 18th	Joint 100th Anniversary Celebration for Ct. Rosemary #681, Middletown & Ct Of the Assumption #690, Maybrook
Sep 19th	Institution of Ct. St. Raymond #2773, Bronx
Sep 25th	Rochester Memorial Mass
Oct 2nd	Rockville Centre Memorial Mass
Oct 11th	Columbus Day
Oct 15th	Park Lane Jewelry Fundraiser Ends
Oct 17th	CDA Sunday
	100th Anniversary Celebrations for Ct Joan Of Arc #604, Haverstraw & Court Johannine #672, Pawling
Oct 18-25th	NYS CDA Our Lady Of Guadalupe Pilgrimage
Nov 1st	All Saints Day Deadline for December Rising Dawn
Nov 2nd	All Souls Day
Nov 6th	Archdiocese Memorial Mass
Nov 11th	Veterans Day
Nov 25th	Thanksgiving