

New York State



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

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"...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."  
—Matthew 5:16



CHERRY BLOSSOMS AT THE MONTAUK LIGHTHOUSE, MONTAUK, LI

MARCH 2020

## Let Your Light Shine With Hope This Easter Season

HEATHER RAVE, ED.D., STATE REGENT



I have always felt that the words we hear at Christmas come into their own at Easter, especially those from St John's Gospel, **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.** On Easter Sunday, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, the Light of the World, and the triumph of life over death and light over darkness.

There will always be evil in the world; there will be hate, envy, deception, persecution, and more. There will be moments when our faith is tested, and our hope is weakened; there are times when it can feel as if the light has gone out of the world and darkness reigns. But we must not despair! **Easter gives us hope!** The attempt to extinguish the life and light of our Lord failed. Darkness was defeated by His overcoming death. Through His resurrection, His light continues to shine...through us.

On Easter Sunday we rejoice, for **Christ was resurrected and His enemies scattered.** The triumphant message of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ once again emboldens our lives, illuminates our hearts and spirits with His light, and bolsters our faith with the hope of eternal life. Life triumphed over the bonds of death, goodness over evil, light over darkness, truth over lies, and justice over injustice.

As Catholic Daughters we realize that we live in a challenging time with no shortage of negative influences that can threaten the integrity of our individual, family, community, and spiritual life. Thus, it is vital that we remain vigilant! We must plant and cultivate seeds of love, peace, truth, and justice first within our own hearts and then in the hearts of those around us, so that we may together as Catholic Daughters choose the path of light and goodness in our spiritual lives, in our service, duties, and in our mission. This year, as Catholic Daughters across New York State, let us invite the Resurrected Lord to dwell in our hearts and **put on the whole armor of God** to become fearless witnesses to the truth and light of our Lord.

I pray that all Catholic Daughters reading this message may be encouraged by these reflections, renewed and revitalized in body, mind, and spirit through the spiritual journey of Lent, and, above all, strengthened in faith, hope, and joy by the power and promise of the light of the triumphant Resurrection.

Rejoice in Easter! Rejoice in the Lord!

*Heather*

*The NY State Board wishes all members of New York State a Blessed & Happy Easter*

Visit [CDANYS.org](http://CDANYS.org) and [CatholicDaughters.org](http://CatholicDaughters.org) for more news and information about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas®.



# Prune, Clean and Grow!

REV. MATTHEW NEWCOMB,  
STATE CHAPLAIN

Dear Catholic Daughters,

Spring is coming, but I have to say, so far, at least where I am assigned in Port Jervis; we have had a mild winter, with little snow. I'm not into winter sports, like some, (though I did enjoy skiing when I was growing up, especially going to Greek Peak), so I did not miss not having the snow. Since becoming pastor this is especially true, since I normally assist with snow-blowing our sidewalks and plowing our parking lot with our dump truck. The Season of Spring has us think of new birth, blossoming; and spiritually we are to blossom and have new growth budding within us.

For new growth to have its greatest effect; pruning, cleanup and throwing out has to happen. Many of us are too busy, we need to evaluate where we are most effective, especially in our charitable activities, the time we give to our families and if we work, the time dedicated to our careers. We can't do everything well, so Spring is the good time to decipher, where we can really beautifully flower and maybe adjust the time we spend on things or people, discerning what is truly important and gives us the greatest joy. Often our lives can be messy. We put off

dealing with things to another day. This usually never ends well.

We have to deal with the cards we've been dealt, and once we do, great peace can often come upon us. Each of us also have things, or people, in our lives that are not good for us. If something or someone does not call you to greater love for God—in your thoughts, words and deeds—you might have to get rid of it, or them.

Why do I say that to you? Because our salvation has to be fundamental in our lives. Comfort and things of the earth, must take a back seat. If some of our possessions take away from our sanctity, they probably should go, or their use limited. For example, all of us require a phone, but do we spend too much time on it? I know I do. I'm not going to throw my iPhone 11 out, but I know, I must put it in its proper place in my life. This change won't be easy, I love information etc., but most of this time is not that well spent. I definitely need to prune my time with it, cleanup and get rid of unnecessary apps etc. Similarly, when we cleanup our houses we often see the beauty that we often miss day in and day out. When we free ourselves and reprioritize our days, we often can sense the beauty of God and His creation at a whole different level.

My prayers for a blessed Lent, Holy Week and Easter! Enjoy the lengthening of days with the beautiful joy of being Catholic and a Catholic Daughter. There is nothing more beautiful on Earth, than the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May you never not be in awe when you are at holy Mass. Enjoy the Spring cleaning.

In Unity and Charity,  
Father Newcomb

## Prayer & Pledges

THERESA DURAN, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

Here I am, on my couch, Ash Wednesday just a few days away and my article needing to be written...

I struggle with what to say. (I know! Me? At a loss for words? LOL) I struggle with how to convey to every member how much CDA means to me. I struggle how to inspire the members of our state to stay committed and keep CDA strong. I struggle with this awesome responsibility I have agreed to as a State Officer. I struggle with the idea of disappointing people. I then I realize that Lent is around the corner and maybe, just maybe I can use this time of prayer and reflection to help me fulfill the promises and pledges I have made to all of you.

I have always been an **idea person**. The creative type: I can make a good plan, but the execution of that plan is often where I struggle. You see, I am also a procrastinator. (Hence my writing my article on **literally** the last day I can!) But I have made pledges and I am also not the kind of person to break a pledge.

I pledge allegiance to the flag often and try to live up to being a good American. I pledged my love and devotion to my husband 28½ years ago and try to be a good wife and partner. I took the pledge of membership in CDA over 35 years ago now and I try to be a faithful member.

We, as a State Board are working together to try to fulfill our pledge to all members in the state. Our pledge to work together to renew and refresh our state.

We are visiting courts to try to invigorate the membership. We are visiting parishes to try to establish new courts. We are visiting each other (even if by video conferencing) to handle the business of the order and make plans for the future.

I plan to take time during Lent to follow through on promises

made. I pledge to pray for CDA in New York and for each of its member for everyday in Lent. I promise to work with the other State Officers to make plans for the Spring, Summer and next Fall that can bring us together in meaningful and fruitful ways.

And I will try, most of all, to live up to the pledge I took some 35 years ago, the Pledge of Membership. Do you remember it?

**I gladly accept membership, in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and through the presence, of the Spirit in my life, I dedicate myself, to the work of this organization, to foster unity and charity, among all men and women, through the love of God.**

Do you try to fulfill this pledge? Are you truly dedicated CDA? Are all members of your court? I truly hope so. It is the only way we will survive as an organization. And I repeat what I said in my first article as a State Officer: **We are needed in this time, in this church, in this world.**

I ask those of you who are receiving this edition of **The Rising Dawn** to read it; **all of it**. And **share** it—the pertinent parts of it—with your members. And promote it: every member is entitled to receive this state newsletter and can do so either through a \$10 a year subscription (call **Karen Rave: 845-496-4982**) or **FREE** by email (email me: **tduran@optonline.net**). **Sidebar: It is disheartening to discuss something that was in The Rising Dawn with a court officer or a District Deputy and realize they have no idea what I am talking about.**

Most of all, I ask you and every one of your members to try to live up to the **CDA Membership Pledge** we committed to.

The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and denial of ego. (That last one is hard for me!) During this Lent, I vow to pray; I commit to fulfilling my pledges; and I will keep hope alive that just as Jesus rose from the dead, CDA in NY State will rise again!

# BLESS: A Guide to Praying for Yourself & Others

SHERRY NILLES, NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT,  
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NEW YORK

The following prayer was taken from **Minnesota Catholic Daughters Book of Prayer** and was written by Cindy Bullerman, Court Santa Maria #247, Adrian, MN.



## B Body

Lord, thank you for my health. Please strengthen me physically today. Ease the tension in my shoulders and head. Give me wisdom to take care of myself wisely. Protect me as I go about my day.

Thank you for your shield around me. I need your help today especially for \_\_\_\_\_.

## L Labor

Father God, I give You all my efforts today. Help me focus today. Help my mind retain what I study. Bless my efforts today. Thank you that my weak points are the very entry point for Your strength.

Fill me with the Your Spirit and help me today to \_\_\_\_\_.

## E Emotions

Lord, You alone know how I can so easily be dragged by my emotions instead of being led by Your Spirit. Today I bring to You the areas within my heart that feel unstable and shaky. Thank You that You are my rock today. You give me a firm place to stand.

Help me to feel encased in Your peace and to trust You completely with \_\_\_\_\_.

## S Social

Father God, bless my friendships and lead me into purposeful friendships with others who seek You. Give me strength to distance myself from social situations that could draw my heart away from You. Bring me a friend to encourage and one who will encourage me.

Today I pray a blessing on \_\_\_\_\_.

## S Spiritual Growth

Lord, help me to trust You and to depend on You. It's so easy to try to lean on my own understanding. Help me to sense Your presence with me today. Help me understand what You are saying to me.

I ask Your forgiveness for \_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you Lord, that You are in my life.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Dallas for the 58th Biennial National Convention July 15-18, 2020. In Unity & Charity, Sherry Nilles

# Elections are Coming

MARGUERITE FORDE,  
NEW YORK STATE SECRETARY

Spring will soon be upon us and the daylight hours will be getting longer. It's a time for putting the doldrums of winter behind us and planting our gardens with glorious colors and new growth. Your nominating committees will be busy putting together a slate of officers to be voted on in May and who will start in June. Some of the ladies will be new and others will be continuing on with a second term. Much luck to them all.

Immediately after the election please remember every court must fill out the **New Officer Form** and send it to the **NY State Regent, Dr. Heather Rave** as well as to the **National Office** and your **DD**. **Even if you do not have any changes in officers, this form must be completed every two years.**

The form may be found as a fillable pdf on the National Web site at **catholicdaughters.org**. All of the above mentioned should also be notified any time there is a change in the status of local court board members (officer change, address changes, meeting time/place, etc.). In order for the officers of the court to receive important information in a timely manner this is critical.

I want to thank all the District Deputies and Regents who returned the **Financial Reviews** and **State Dues** to me so quickly. There are still a handful who I am waiting for which I hope to have before the next dues invoices are sent in April. My goal is a 100% response.

I wish you all a beautiful spring and a very Blessed Easter. He Has Risen.

## Public Relations

BARBARA DREW, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

As I am writing this message, the **Newsletter Contest** is coming to a close. I have not received many entries. Having a newsletter can be a lot of work, but it is a useful tool to communicate with your members. Your newsletter should contain information on the activities of your court and have a section for National and State news. It may even have neighboring courts' upcoming events. This way your members may be able to attend the functions of your court and other courts in your area. Share your newsletter with the ladies in your

Church as a way to increase interest (and possibly membership).

Thanks to the courts that send their newsletter to me. Courts that did not have a Newsletter, maybe you can get a member who would like to put one together for your court. It will get the message out to the members about what is going on in local and state news.

In closing, I would like to wish **Past National Regent Rayola McLaughlin** a very Happy Birthday! Rayola has represented Catholic Daughters in our country and overseas. She will be turning 100 years young on March 20, 2020. I wanted to acknowledge this milestone of a lady who always promoted CDA wherever she went.

Wishing all members and families a Blessed Easter!



# Life is Winning!

EILEEN PETERSON, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATIVE

This headline reflects the words of our **Father Richard Putnam, Court Chaplain of Court Joan of Arc#604, Haverstraw**, as he watched and participated in the **47th March for LIFE** in Washington, DC!

Hundreds of thousands of people, young & old, of many religions, from many states, even some from other countries, united with one singular purpose: **to protect and defend the most precious gift of life!**

We should all be encouraged and we know in this spiritual battle of good versus evil that God will ultimately win; especially when we witness the multitude of high school & college students who participated in the March.

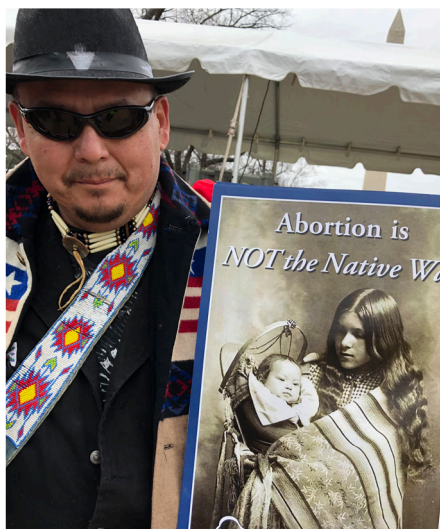
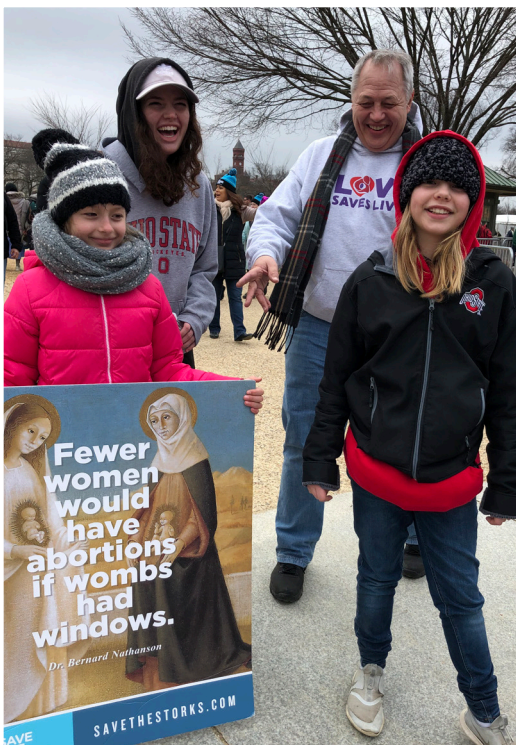
Thank you to all the Courts who have sent in their legislative reports to me. It is encouraging to see the good works you are all involved in. As Catholics we are called to witness our faith with great love and stand up for laws that are moral and good for the society we live in.

Please continue to pray that the surrogacy ban in New York State is upheld. **Governor Andrew Cuomo** has included language in his state budget proposal to repeal New York's ban on surrogate motherhood for profit. This would enable the buying and selling of children and the exploitation of women for their eggs and wombs. It is critical that your elected officials hear from you on this bill.

**The New York State Catholic Conference** is the official voice of the Catholic Church in the Empire State and their website is [nyscatholic.org](http://nyscatholic.org). Visit the site regularly to stay informed on legislative issues in our state and discover how you can act. You can send a message to your elected representative as their **CONSTITUENT, not as a member of CDA** using this media highway or you can call your Assemblyman and Senator at their office in Albany.

Thank you for all you are doing and have done to live our faith based values at a time when the light must shine through the great darkness.

God Bless You and your precious families.



# 1903 Society

LISA M. STIRPE,  
STATE CHAIRMAN FOR  
1903 SOCIETY

**"For it is in giving that we receive." Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi**

Isn't the **Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi** such a wonderful guide to live a life of love and service? It shows us how to live sowing peace, love and pardon. Although it is attributed to St. Francis, he was not the author of this lovely prayer and hymn. When asked, though, the Franciscan monks said that they believe that "it would not displease him". (Prayer of St. Francis)

The **CDA Circle of Love** promotes a similar guide to living a life of love and service using more specific areas of focus: **Leadership, Family, Quality of Life, Spiritual Enhancement, Education, Legislation, and Youth/JCDA.**

Every area of focus overlaps and encourages caring service. This is what Catholic Daughters of the Americas are all about—charitable giving of oneself. It was from this idea of charitable giving that the **1903 Society** was born in July 2011.

The **New York State Court** has a long-term pledge to the **1903 Society** that is almost paid up. The money that is donated to the **1903 Society** by the courts across New York State (from the courts who do not currently have their own pledge) goes to help fulfill this pledge. This way, we can also be part of the giving to the repairs on the **Grand Old Lady**, and receive the satisfaction knowing that we helped.

Please don't forget to make your checks out to **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** and put **1903 Society** on the memo line. Thank you.



# STEPPING UP!

HEATHER RAVE, ED.D., STATE REGENT

Stepping up.

To rise to the challenge.

To answer the call.

To be there when they need you.

I have had the great fortune in my life to be in a leadership position of many organizations and/or committees. From as early as elementary school throughout my scholastic career and into my job, to my local and state positions in the NYS Catholic Daughters, as well as various committees throughout my adult life, I have always felt like it was an honor that my peers put their faith in me to lead. I am proud that I put myself in a position to step up into the positions I have held.

**Stepping up can mean many things to many people.** It's a calling usually. When the call comes, are you ready to step up? If you are, you need to step up. If smart, grounded people think it is your turn to step up and lead, you need to give great weight to their opinion. Because it is the responsibility for current officers to replace themselves in their organizations at some point. Our officers may term out, move up, or come across a change in their life's direction, but everyone will need to be replaced at some time.



Keeping in mind that our Local Court Elections are at hand.

In any organization including ours, leaders need to be identifying the future leaders who have or will soon have the ability to be their successors. Sometimes these women have to be groomed, trained and coached. Sometimes they come by it naturally. But it's the responsibility of the current leadership to help identify who those individuals are and prepare them for their leadership responsibilities in their future.

Not everyone is called, but if called, you need to try to say 'yes'. When I was new to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, I was young and inexperienced in the particular rules of our organization, but I liked the organization and wanted to be a part of its leadership. I volunteered to be on committees. If you are young and new to our organization, position yourself to be a leader, through volunteerism, deeds, and actions. Show up early and stay late. You may be asked to perform duties that you feel you were not trained for or have the skill set to perform those duties. If a current leader asks you (as was true for me), more than likely they have seen something in you that leads them to believe you will rise to the occasion and perform well with their requests. Seize the opportunity by stepping up and never look back. You won't regret it, I know I haven't.

## Think Spring

CONNIE BREINDEL, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

When I think of spring these words come to mind: rebirth, renew, refresh, reawaken, and reinvigorate. It is a time for new beginnings. We see trees budding, flowers breaking ground, and the grass turn greener. We hear birds singing and baby chicks chirping; and the smell of newness is in the air.

These same words should also describe our courts in the next coming months. It is that time for new beginnings with the election of officers to lead the court and decide the path it takes. It is, as exciting to see the new officers be elected as seeing the trees bud and flowers bloom during spring.

If you think about your court and the words rebirth, renew, refresh, reawaken, and reinvigorate do not come to mind; ask yourself why. Is it because the same women are elected officers each time? If that is the case, maybe it is time for you to step up and become an officer. If that is something that you really can't do; then volunteer to be the chairperson for the Circle of Love or a fundraiser or some other role in your court.

It is our responsibility to help the court as members over the next several months become these words: rebirth, renew, refresh, reawaken, and reinvigorate. Let's do our share.

## HEALING PRAYERS NEEDED

Please keep **Immediate Past State Chaplain Fr. Ralph Sommer** in your prayers. He spent over three weeks in the hospital fighting a bacterial infection in his lungs. He is now home with oxygen and on the mend.

Also continue to hold **State Chairman for the 1903 Society Lisa Stirpe** in your prayers. She will be having surgery to stabilize an aneurysm in her brain on March 31st, 2020. Please set aside some time to pray for her on that day.

Say a prayer for **Darcy Kubissa, Recording Secretary of Court Gleason #924, Clyde**. The doctors say she is suffering from what they think is a rare neurodegenerative disease. Unfortunately, she is rapidly declining despite all interventions.

Let us remember with love former secretary at CDA National Headquarters and member **Ct. Bishop McDonnell #1403, Babylon, Adrienne Plumeau**, who passed away last week at the age of 91.

Let us also offer daily prayers for our CDA sisters dealing with their own health issues. May the Lord, in His ultimate wisdom and compassion, bring healing to them all.

# Divine Mercy Sunday

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

**"I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With Him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (Psalm 16:8)**

As I write this article, I sit by the fireplace having just celebrated Christmas Day with my family. It is cold and dark in Saratoga Springs. I know that when you read this, we will all be in the midst of Lent, awaiting the Triduum and then the triumph of Easter. The Sunday following Easter is **Divine Mercy Sunday** and that, my sisters, is my topic and thoughts for you in this column.

To Saint Faustina Our Lord said: **My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of My most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to Me will contemplate My love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from My very depths of**

**tenderness. It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy.** (Diary, 699).

We are all in need of God's tender mercy. Can you even imagine what a wonderful feast this is and what Jesus is offering us on Divine Mercy Sunday? Read these words again: **The soul that will go to confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.**

Here is my desire and my prayer for each of us. Receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter Sunday, and receive Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. But there is more that our Lord asks of us. As we receive mercy, we must show mercy to others...pay it forward so to speak. Jesus reminds us, **Yes, but there must also be acts of mercy. ...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. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it.** (Diary, 742)

Jesus said, **whomever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.** (Diary, 300). Share this with your friends, implore your family, ask your parish priest for additional confession



times if possible, let those individuals who have been away from the church know that mercy and forgiveness is theirs if they desire it. Invite everyone you encounter during your daily life to Reconciliation and Mass on Divine Mercy Sunday by explaining the promise of Jesus for complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. Can you imagine how many souls you will save?

Can you imagine the joy in Heaven over the lost who will be found? Share this with your Catholic Daughter sisters at the next meeting before Divine Mercy Sunday. At your May meeting, talk about the graces and joy you received and please share your experiences with me. May God bless you always and in all ways.

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# Leadership

LINDA MANCHESTER, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

What kind of leader are you? Do you make all the decisions or do you ask for input from your court? I would hope that you are the latter. I look at a leader and see a person who brings out the best in their peer and make that person believe in themselves. Have you had a new member join your court and never join in any discussions? What can you do as the Regent to bring out the personality of the new member? First off, have a conversation with the new member and find out their interests and do it privately. Are they retired or are they still working? Some women don't like to join unless they can give at least 50%. Never put them on the spot as that is the quickest way to lose a new member. I love watching a member rise to the occasion and bring about change whether it is assisting at a function or heading a committee.

Remember, great leaders don't set out to be a leader. They set out to make a difference. It is never about the role but rather about the goal! Good people need little to no management but they definitely need support, clarity and encouragement.

As of my writing this article, I have received five **Circle of Love Leadership** forms from courts. The first one arrived the beginning of January to my delight. Remember when filling out the form, make sure you have the number that participated and how did the project impact your court or parish. Also, who led the project, was it an officer of the court or was it a member with an officer being the liaison.

I look forward to reading all the great projects your court has been involved in and how the leadership has assisted in those projects. Thank you for all you do in Unity and Charity.



# THANK YOU PROJECT

## THERESA DURAN, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

Sadly, only 18 courts chose to participate in our first attempt at this project to support the military, but those courts wrote and/or collected **2,956 thank you cards for our troops!**

While that number is great and truly appreciated, if we did nothing other than had each member in our state write one card, we would have collected over 60,000 notes of thanks for our deserving military personnel.

The court that demonstrated the greatest volume of success was **Ct. St. Pius X #1690, Levittown** who submitted 1,082 cards to the project. Other courts reported success by way of exposure in their parish, involvement with local schools and fellowship among parishioners at **Thank You** events.

I wish to thank the other Local Courts that participated:

Ct. Madonna #114, Port Jervis  
Ct. Patricia #195, Newburgh  
Ct. Joan of Arc #604 Havestraw  
Ct. Rosemary #681, Middletown  
Ct. Margaret Mary #768, Monroe  
Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport  
Ct. Ave Maria #832, Kings Park  
Ct. Queen of Angels #869, Hicksville  
Ct. Genevieve Walsh #918, Goshen  
Ct. Nilan #985, Highland  
Ct. Catherine Esther #1264, Canajoharie  
Ct. Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell  
Ct. Father Raphael #1542, Calicoon  
Ct. Our Lady of the Snows #1548, Lyon Mountain  
Ct. St. Gerard #1920, Centerreach  
Ct. St. Ann, Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville

Plus one more that did not indicate the court name or number and had a name we did not recognize and town that we do not have a court in.

After we had sent our donation to the **NASH-FM Ty Bentli Show 100,000 Thank Yous Project**, Project Chairman **Margaret Frisch** received about 70 additional cards from addresses in Commack and Westbury. She forwarded those to the project.

Most of the courts that did participate were very excited by what they accomplished and have already begun plans to expand their projects for next year.

I 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 over 60,000 notes of thanks for our troops.

## Marie C. Curry Seminary and Scholarship Fund

ELAINE KLESIC, STATE CHAIRMAN MARIE C. CURRY  
SCHOLARSHIP & SEMINARY FUND

I want to thank all the courts that participated in the **Marie C. Curry Seminary & Scholarship Fund** in 2019. I think you should all be congratulated.

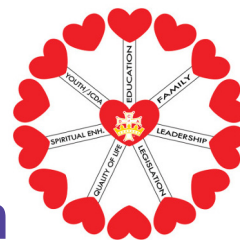
By now, every court should have received their letter for 2020 stating the amount they are assessed based on their September 2019 membership. If you have not received it, please give me a call at **716-771-1589**.

Remember, checks must have two signatures and should be made out to **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** with an indication in the memo for the **Marie C. Curry Seminary & Scholarship Fund**. Please mail it to me at: **Elaine Klesic, 2244 Union Road Apt 238, West Seneca, NY 14224**

You know that without this fund, we could not help seminarians with their education for the Priesthood. In this difficult time in our Church, it is our duty to pray for our Priests and help in way that we can.

I hope you all have a Happy and Blessed Easter and I will look forward to seeing some of you at the National Convention in Dallas.

## 2019-2020 New York State Circle of Love State Chairmen



**State Chairman of Education: Mary Westerman**  
36 Monroe Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601  
845-297-5250 mewoll@aol.com

**State Chairman of Family: Tina Bigelow**  
9423 US Route 9, Lewis, NY 12950  
518-569-3408 tbigelow2012@gmail.com

**State Chairman of Leadership: Linda Manchester**  
21 McIntosh Drive, Peru, NY 12972  
518-643-8977 grannyegkn@yahoo.com

**State Chairman of Legislation: Eileen Peterson**  
6 Patrick Natale Court, Stony Point, NY 10980  
845-429-2077 rachelminister1@aol.com

**State Chairman of Quality of Life: Patti Dravanos**  
218 Greencrest Drive, Scotchtown, NY 10941  
845-673-5162 yayapatti@aol.com

**State Chairman of Spiritual Enhancement: Lucille Koch**  
38 High Rock Ave., Ste 61, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866  
516-319-4577 lu@kochny.com

**State Chairman of Youth/JCDA: Helene Shepard**  
PO Box 455, Washingtonville, NY 10992  
845-496-9213 misshelene2018@gmail.com

# AROUND THE STATE



## Pictures with Santa

Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell, hosted a **Pictures with Santa** event on Saturday, December 7th. Children, families, and even pets had an opportunity to pose for pictures with Santa. There were activities and refreshments provided during this event. Pictured above are some of the officers and members with Santa.

From L-R: **Maria Constable**, Recording Secretary; **Therese Constable**, Regent; **Marge Marino**, member; **Anita Garvin**, member and wife of **Santa Ted**; **Rosalie Constable**, member; **Elizabeth Breindel**, Vice Regent; **Morgan Breindel**, member



## Long Time Member

At the 100th Anniversary celebration of **Court McLaughlin #422, Saratoga Springs**, long time member **Josephine Natale** was honored. Josephine is 101 years young and has been a member of the Court since 1943. If you're counting, that is 76 years! Josephine still attends the monthly meetings and is an inspiration to all.

## Holiday Collection for VA Medical Center & Military



**Court #1264 Catherine Esther, Canajoharie**, has spearheaded a community-wide drive to collect needed items for wounded military and veterans for many years. The collection is taken by a local Veteran (who works at the VA Hospital) to the Chief of Voluntary Services at the Stratton Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Albany. The collection is then distributed to wounded and veterans at the nursing home facility there at Christmastime. By the weekend of Thanksgiving, collection boxes were in place in the lobbies of an area bank, a mini-shopping mall and in the vestibules of **Our Lady of Hope Parish Church** in Fort Plain. The residents of a local adult home also participated in donating items to the collection. The drive was publicized in the area newspapers and church bulletins. Flyers with a list of needed items were placed in our church vestibules, stores and various other public places. The flyers also asked for monetary donations to purchase care packages to be sent to deployed military.

After the deadline, the collection boxes were picked up and taken to the Regent's home where the collected items were packed in mid December, then picked up and delivered. Three members of our court gathered at the Regent's home and packed the collection into 12 boxes for pick-up by the veteran transporting the collection to the hospital. The monetary donations were substantial and the Regent was able to purchase 20 Christmas care packages (valued at \$22.00 each) from the **Soldiers' Angels** website. These care packages were shipped to deployed soldiers by the Soldiers' Angels Organization. The court also sent a donation to the **VA Hospital** in Albany for their **Holiday Fund**.



# 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.





## 100th Anniversary Celebration

Court Immaculata #444, Mineola, celebrated their 100th Anniversary on November 16th with a Mass at Corpus Christi Church celebrated by **Bishop Emil Wcela**. A luncheon followed where **Immediate Past National Regent Helene Shepard** was the guest speaker.



## March for Life

Past State Regent Mary Impellizeri and Immediate Past National Regent Helene Shepard travelled to Washington, DC, on January 23rd to join with members of our **National Board** at the **Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life** at the **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception**. On the morning of Friday, January 24th, they met with the entire Catholic Daughter contingency as they marched up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court. The following day, they attended the National Legislative meeting before heading home.



## National Projects & Charities

**ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS**

**Cheers** to those Courts who took notice of our mid-January memo, encouraging National Project/Charities donations to be sent to the NYS Chair by March 1st, to allow for the adequate processing and mailing time through our NYS system! I was able to mail one lengthy transmittal and have already received donations from three more courts. Keep them coming.

I do have a couple reminders to share, and it is important these things get passed on as officers change. The FYI sheet about National Projects/Charities, sent by National office (lower section of yellow circle) states "Send all checks to the National Office or follow your State guidelines." Ladies, once again, **in NYS our guidelines are to mail to the Chairman of National Projects**, that being me, **Anna Lucia, PO Box 713, Dannemora NY 12929**. A court sent me an email that they had sent their donations in a certain month and wanted me to check to be certain they were credited. Upon checking my roster, I had received nothing and upon re-contact, their donation was mailed directly to National Office.

**The National Office does not report donations to us;** it's simply the way the system is. If you want to see your court acknowledged at NY State Convention time, your donation needs to come to me. I have seen some unhappy members when they did not see their donations listed at State Convention. We like to see NYS courts donate through our State because as a group contributing together, our State can make larger contributions.

Please remember that **all checks must be made to Catholic Daughters of the Americas**. Those made to National Projects or New York State will be returned for a rewrite.

We appreciate your generous donations and all the hard work you do for CDA. Have a holy Lenten season and a blessed Easter. Happy spring!

**QUICK CHUCKLE:** A priest, a minister & a rabbit walk into a bar. The rabbit says, "I think I may be a typo."



# NYS Merchandise

All New York State merchandise is now available from our new **State Chairman for Sale of Articles Linda Bolt**. We thank Linda for taking on this assignment and hope that this will make is quick and convenient for members to obtain New York State Catholic Daughters products.

## MERCHANDISE:

CDA Small Purple Bag	\$2.00
CDA Labels/100 Per Bag	\$3.50
NYS CDA Membership Pins	\$3.00
Past Regent Chapter Pins	\$5.00
Sashes/Purple	\$7.00
Sashes/Color Guard	\$10.00

## T-SHIRTS:

Various Sizes	\$15.00
Let Your Light Shine Purple T-Shirt	
We Wear Red On Fridays Red T-Shirt	
Blessed To Be Catholic, Proud To Be American Navy Blue T-Shirt	

## SALE ITEMS:

New York State Patches	\$1.00
New York State Pens	\$1.00
New York State Stylus Pens	\$1.00

Contact Linda at: **716-668-3047**, [mariebolt@gmail.com](mailto:mariebolt@gmail.com) or **59 Caldwell Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224** to place an order.

Navy T-Shirt features the CDA cross & crown on the front and the saying "Blessed to be Catholic, Proud to be American" on the back



Purple T-Shirt shows our current theme: "Let Your Light Shine" on the front



Red T-Shirt has an American flag on the front and our commitment of "On Friday We Wear RED: Remember Everyone Deployed" on the back



# Welcome to March Madness!

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

**As we approach our Spring Financial Review, a few reminders for us all.**

**Are your National and State dues paid and current?**

Separate invoices are sent for these and may arrive simultaneously, please make sure each check is correctly written and sent to correct addresses. Remember, a court vote is not needed for these to be paid.

National Dues sent to: **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**, 10 West 71st St., New York, NY 10023

State Dues should be mailed to: **Marguerite Forde, State Secretary**, 37 Laurel Rd., Kings Park, New York 11754. Remember checks are written out to **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**, so it is very important to write in memo line what the check is for.

**Is Marie C. Curry Seminary and Education Fund up to date?** Checks should be sent to **Elaine Klesic, State Chairman**, 2244 Union Rd. Apt. 238, West Seneca, NY, 14224.

Donations for **National Projects/Charities** sent to: **Anna Lucia, State Chairman**, 12 Manley St., Dannemora, NY, 12929.

Remember to check your bank statements for any outstanding checks still not cashed, and check with your bank to know how long of a time frame before check is a void, and do you need to put back in your account. I do want to Thank You all for checks being written out correctly, and memo line being used!

Please be aware, there is a gift card scam on the internet, asking for donations to be sent to different agencies, and signed from a State Officer. If you read it carefully, proper English is not used, and the e-mail is not from us. Be careful to double check before considering donations. Thank You all again for your service to Catholic Daughters of the Americas!

I wish you all a Blessed Easter!

# COMING SOON: A NEW YORK JCDA STATE COURT!

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF JCDA/YOUTH

JCDA local and state courts are now back under the National umbrella. We are presently awaiting new and updated directives from the National Board.

In order to start a **JCDA State Court** one of the requirements is to have at least five JCDA Courts in the State. We know we fulfill this requirement. Now we need to take the next step. In order to do that we need your input.

How can we accomplish this goal? We will need to have a meeting of all the local court advisors and officers. As soon as we decide on a date, time and place we will inform all the courts. It will be from this group that the new JCDA State Officers would be elected. We would then institute the New York JCDA State Court.

The mission of this group would be to plan and share state activities for all JCDA Courts. JCDA materials would be more readily available.

In spite of the fact that this article begins with information about JCDA Courts and a New York State JCDA Court it does not minimize the importance of the work that the local senior courts are doing with the youth in our parishes and communities.

I am presently awaiting the Circle of Love reports from all of the local courts in our state. Please take the time to tell us what you are doing to serve and motivate the youth in your parish and your community.

We can only print your stories, projects and accomplishments if you let us know what you are doing. We need to humbly, **toot our own horn**. We want to let everyone know the wonderful work that is being done by the members in our local courts as well as the JCDA members.

In closing, let us remember the words of Benjamin Disraeli: **Almost everything that is great has been done by youth.**

# Whatsoever You Do for the Least of My People...

PATTI DRAVANOS, STATE CHAIRMAN FOR QUALITY OF LIFE

**"Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked when you see them and do not turn your back on your own". Isaiah 58:7**

I cannot think of a more fitting description for what the **Quality of Life** spoke of the **Circle of Love** means to our courts. Each court finds countless ways to show the love of Jesus to the less fortunate among us.

**Sharing bread with the hungry** has courts preparing holiday food baskets, making meals for warming stations or homeless shelters, and preparing treats for the homebound.

**Sheltering the oppressed and the homeless** has a court taking responsibility for rehabbing a transitional home and stocking it with supplies on an ongoing basis, other courts support **Catholic Charities** with their endeavors with the oppressed and homeless, another court helped to collect supplies for the local warming station for those Code Blue nights.

**Clothing the naked** have some courts doing clothing drives, doing a warm coat drive, donating hats and mittens for needy school children or learning what it means to wear only a few outfits for the Lenten season.

And the final part of the verse, **do not turn your back on your own** has our members looking to improve the lives of their fellow parishioners and those in their local communities.

**How does your court answer Isaiah's command?**

Please share with your sisters what your courts are doing to improve the quality of life in your corner of the world. **Circle of Love** reports are due by March 7 and can be emailed to me at [yayapatti@aol.com](mailto:yayapatti@aol.com). I look forward to hearing from all of you.

# Are You Attending National Convention?

We still have a bit of time to make final plans for the Convention in Dallas but, if you do plan on attending, be sure to book a room as soon as possible. Review the tours offered before and after the official Convention dates and decide if you would like to take advantage of visiting local sites while in Texas. Investigate flights to either Dallas-Fort Worth Airport (DFW) or Dallas Love Airport (DAL), both are local for the Sheraton.

One thing that is always a great time at Convention is **Fun Night**. The theme for this Fun Night is **All Trails Lead to Texas**.

The State Board has a costume idea and all members will be invited to join in. We aren't quite ready to share specifics yet, and we don't want to let the cat out of the bag. We are also making plans for a NYS Dinner at a local Dallas establishment. Once we have details on both of these and know who is attending the convention, we will be reaching out to you.

## The 2020 NYS Scholarship

KAREN SHEBOY, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year our NYS Court offers three \$1,000 scholarships to deserving graduating seniors **who are dependents of Catholic Daughters**, who plan to attend and have been accepted to college. The 2020 NYS CDA Scholarship application is now available. A copy is included with this newsletter.

Please spread the word to all members who have children eligible to apply. Scholarship winners will be awarded according to their merit and/or financial need. All interested applicants should follow scholarship instructions with care and submit their application to: **Karen Sheboy, NYS Scholarship Chair, 38 Spring Road, Washingtonville, NY 10992**



### 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.

**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](http://cdanys.org).

Rest assured that a printed version will continue to be mailed to anyone that has not opted out of receiving it.

Thank you to those who responded using the postcard included with the June issue of **The Rising Dawn**; though some people forgot to include their name.

Please send your request to **Editor Theresa Duran** at [tduran@optonline.net](mailto:tduran@optonline.net) and **Assistant Editor Karen Rave** at [krave@hvc.rr.com](mailto:krave@hvc.rr.com) 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 **Assistant Editor Karen Rave** at 1711 Little Britain Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575

## IMPORTANT DATES

MAR 4TH	ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASSING OF PAST STATE REGENT PENNY MARTIN
MAR 8TH	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS
MAR 17TH	ST. PATRICK'S DAY
MAR 17TH	ST. JOSEPH'S DAY
APR 5TH	PALM SUNDAY
APR 9TH	HOLY THURSDAY
APR 10TH	GOOD FRIDAY
APR 12TH	EASTER SUNDAY
APR 30TH	BIRTHDAY OF IMMEDIATE PAST STATE REGENT MARY ZIESIG
MAY 3RD	BIRTHDAY OF PAST STATE REGENT MARY IMPELLIZERI
MAY 10TH	MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 21ST	ASCENSION THURSDAY
MAY 25TH	MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 31ST	PENTECOST
JUN 1ST	BIRTHDAY OF IMMEDIATE PAST NATIONAL REGENT HELENE SHEPARD