

New York State



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

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The grass withers, the flower
fades, but the word of our God
will stand forever. — Isaiah 40:8

BROOKLYN BOTANICAL GARDENS

MARCH 2021

Could We Start Again, Please?

HEATHER RAVE, ED.D., STATE REGENT



My Dear Catholic Daughters
of New York State,

In preparing to begin another Lent, I was haunted by a song from the movie Jesus Christ Superstar. It is a song sung by Mary Magdalene and the apostle Peter: **Could We Start Again Please?**

The question keeps resounding in my head and my heart: **Isn't that what Lent is all about?** The question posed by each of us: **Could We Start Again, Please???** And God's resounding answer: **YES!**

None of us is perfect and despite outward appearances there is brokenness in all our lives. Over the last year during this pandemic, I have asked myself how I can more faithfully cast my cares at Christ's feet. How can I lighten the weight of these days—for myself, my family, my friends and neighbors, and for all of my sisters, the Catholic Daughters in NY State—how can I help them from the compounding crises that break over us with such resounding force. I have

wondered how we can faithfully let go and trust God. In this wilderness we have wandered—and the wilderness we encounter in the season of Lent—how can we wholeheartedly lament and release our burdens? How can we **ReLent?**

There is guilt. There is control. There is shame. Idolatry and judgment. Pride and Doubt. Christ is inviting us to release so much that we carry, so that we can seek His way, His truth, His love as a path to new life. In the Gospel of Mark, we read that while Christ was in the wilderness—these forty days we are now journeying—temptations circled and wild beasts lurked, but at the end of these forty days, the angels waited on Him. I love that. In the wilderness, the angels waited on Him. In all our worries, our doubts, our fears, our imperfections—the angels wait. How do we know? We know because Easter morning does indeed dawn.

Unfortunately, Peter and Mary are not asking for a second chance for

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



Lent Lets Us Strive To What We Were Made For

REV. MATTHEW NEWCOMB, STATE CHAPLAIN

Dear Catholic Daughters,

It's amazing to think that this will be my last **Rising Dawn** article. I am truly sorry that I will not be seeing you at our State Convention in Saratoga Springs. This new year continues

to have many unknown aspects to it to say the least. We are called to pray all the more, that's one definite I know through these days.

I do pray that your Lent is going well. In my current parish we are privileged to have very beautiful Stations of the Cross, which is one of my favorite prayers to offer during Lent. The Stations were restored lovingly and painstakingly by parishioners. Each stands out, but especially for me it is our sixth station (Veronica wipes the face of Jesus). When you look at the cloth that Veronica holds in her hands you see the image of His Sacred Countenance. I think that if a professional paid

artist had tried to restore this station they would not have had the impact and beauty that it now enshrines.

I have always loved the name of Veronica, meaning the image of God. Isn't that truth, what we are all called to be striving for. Most of us are far, very far from this, but Lent lets us strive ever closer to what we were made for.

Reflect often on the Holy Image of Our Savior. When we look at His beauty beyond His Wounds, we find peace beyond anything that we can imagine. It might be a nice addition to your own home to have the Holy Image. With all the secular pressures we all endure, it is nice have that place in our homes to turn to Him with all the burdens of the day, worries and loves; and know that He is in charge, even when we might feel that we're on a boat in the middle of a horrible storm.

Blessed Lent, Joyous Holy Week and Bountiful Easter Blessings!

In Unity and Charity,
Father Newcomb

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

themselves but rather are looking for a way around the death and resurrection of Jesus. They want things to stay the same—something so many of us want. We are comfortable with the “status quo.” Change is difficult. The song's melody is haunting as Mary Magdalene asks Jesus to start His ministry all over again, so it does not apparently end on Calvary. But He does go to Calvary and so must we. And, in all our imperfection, remember—when Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb that Easter morning, an angel was waiting.

Knowing this Gospel truth, and knowing that the season of Lent ends with the triumphant news of the resurrected Son of God, what might you ReLent as the angels surround you in this promise of redemptive love? What have you been carrying that Christ invites you to release?

As we journey to the cross—united as Catholic Daughters of the Americas—what can you leave behind? The disciples carried doubt and fear all the way to Easter. The religious and political leaders carried judgment and scorn. The followers of Jesus carried grief and despair. And all the while, the angels waited. But God was not finished speaking. Easter arrives in the joy of the Risen Lord who loves us beyond all human imagination and who leads us to His Father's throne of mercy and healing.

As this will be my last Rising Dawn message as State Regent, I wish to leave you with peace, hope, and most of all Light. May your Lights continue to shine always!

Rejoice in Easter! Rejoice in the Lord!
Yours in Unity and Charity,

NEW YORK STATE MASS CARDS

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

**Lu Koch, State Chairman of
Spiritual Enhancement
38 High Rock Ave., Ste 61, Saratoga
Springs, NY 12866**

**The mass cards are free,
simply pay postage for them.**

**Contact Linda Bolt,
State Sales Chairperson at:
716-668-3047 or
mariebolt@gmail.com.**

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



57th Biennial New York State Convention

With heavy hearts, and out of an abundance of caution, the State Board has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2021 New York State Convention.

CDC and New York State Guidelines still warn against large gatherings, many members are awaiting reception of the vaccine, and we, as a Board, realize that the physical safety and peace of mind of you, the members comes before all.

In preparation this situation, the National Board has distributed **Guidelines for Voting**. The following are excerpts:

1. Voting: State Courts will follow the same procedures the National Board followed when electing new National Officers, National Directors, and the 2022 Nominating Committee. They are as follows:
 - A. The State Regent will send an email to all Court Regents, District Deputies and State Chairmen publishing the Slate of State Officers and ask for nominations from the floor for State Officer and the 2023 Nominating Committee... She will instruct the Court Regents to announce the slate to her Court members and to inquire if anyone is interested in running from the floor. The Court Regent is the only member who can nominate a candidate from her Court for the Nominating Committee. She should email the name of the candidate, the name and number of the Court, and the city to the State Regent.
 - B. Candidates who wish to run from the floor for State Office or Nominating Committee will have two weeks to mail in their paperwork (as specified in the by-laws) to the State Regent.
 - C. Ballots will be mailed out no later than Wednesday, March 17, 2021.
 - D. The Court Regent is responsible for getting the ballots to the delegates in her court. The Court delegates must be registered in order to vote. The Court Regent is to...and mail them back to the State Regent. They must be postmarked by March 31, 2021.

All paperwork to run for **State Officer** or the **Nominating Committee** must be received by **Friday, March 12, 2021**. Please email: Dr. Heather A. Rave, State Regent, at heather.rave@gmail.com or call her at 845/496/4982.

Additional information with our alternate plans, reports, and all contest winners will be forthcoming.

Report of the 2021 NY STATE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following slate of officers has been proposed for the 2021-2023 term of office:

State Regent:
Theresa Duran

First Vice State Regent:
Connie Breindel

**Second Vice
State Regent: Open**

State Treasurer:
Judy Sterling

State Secretary:
Patti Drivanos

Thank you to **Chairman Gail Erickson** and committee members **Shirley LaReau-Kemp, Anna Lucia, Jane Magno-D'Anna,** and **Debbie Stellakis**, for giving their time, talent and dedication to our order and it's future.

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

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

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. —Romans 8:28-30



What's In Your Junk Drawer?

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT

My Dear Sisters,

As spring approaches and the ground begins to thaw, we are reminded of the journey of Lent and the gift that it brings us. Some may regard Lent as a solemn time of preparation and fasting; it absolutely is. I regard Lent as a time of spiritual **spring cleaning** for my heart and soul.

For those who know me, I love to be tidy and organized. So, when its time to clean out a closet or mop a floor, I'm ready to go.

All of us have a junk drawer in our homes—some may even have a junk closet—the messy place that nobody should see. The place in our home that we know is a little disorganized but we're the only ones who know about it, so it's okay. It's the place for rubber bands, loose keys that go to nothing, bobby pins, pennies, dried out pens, and that roll of old scotch tape you're never going to use.

Our hearts can be like that as well. There may be a place in your heart that you maybe haven't given to Jesus Christ just yet; the junk drawer of our hearts that we feel is too cluttered or messy for Jesus to get into. We stand between Jesus and that drawer, and instead direct Him to the pristine looking living room of our hearts. After all, why should Jesus focus on that? It's too disorganized and chaotic, right?

Wrong! In Lent, its time for us to step aside from that junk drawer and let Jesus weed out all those pieces of junk that we think are too much for Him to handle. Our penchant for gossip, the feelings of inadequacy, the desire to be preferred, our annoyance at that person who we really can't stand; in a very real way, these things can keep us at arm's length from Jesus Christ. Lent is that time to wipe out whatever is in the junk drawer. Ask Jesus to come into that drawer and ransack it; let Him purge it and let this Lent be the most meaningful Lent you've ever experienced. Take on extra tasks that help you grow in a specific virtue or Spiritual Work of Mercy; lead a bible study for the women at your parish; find a spiritual director to journey with you during this wonderful season.

I am praying for each of you during the coming season of Lent. May the junk drawers of our hearts be cleaned out for Him, so we may all the more joyfully sing **Alleluia** at the coming of Easter Morning. God be with each of you.

Blessings to all, Emily

COVID-19 Prayer of Solidarity

REPRINTED FROM USCCB.ORG

*For all who have
contracted coronavirus,
we pray for care and healing.*

*For those who are
particularly vulnerable,
we pray for safety and protection.*

*For all who experience fear or anxiety,
we pray for peace of mind and spirit.*

*For affected families who are facing
difficult decisions between food on
the table or public safety, we pray for
policies that recognize their plight.*

*For those who do not have
adequate health insurance,
we pray that no family will face
financial burdens alone.*

*For those who are afraid to access
care due to immigration status,
we pray for recognition of the
God-given dignity of all.*

*For our brothers and sisters
around the world,
we pray for shared solidarity.*

*For public officials and decision
makers, we pray for wisdom
and guidance.*

*Father, during this time may your
Church be a sign of hope, comfort
and love to all. Grant peace.
Grant comfort. Grant healing.
Be with us, Lord. Amen.*

FOR

It was Palm Sunday but because of a sore throat, 5-year-old Bobby stayed home from church with a babysitter. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds. Bobby asked them what they were for.

"People laid them down as a path for Jesus as He walked by," his father told him.

"Wouldn't you know it," Bobby fumed, "the one Sunday I don't go and He shows up."

Thinking Towards The Future

THERESA DURAN, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

These days, it seems like a crazy dream to think of the future, a time when pandemic doesn't dominate the news, we are able to have meetings, masks aren't required in church, and visiting those in hospitals and nursing homes are once again encouraged.

Crazy as it might seem, we must think of the future! We can't give up and say that this is the new normal. We must plan for when things get back to what we consider normal so that the Mission of Catholic Daughters can be fulfilled and our membership in it be fulfilling.

The second sentence of that Mission Statement (which can be found on the back cover of this issue) says: *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.

And we, as a Board, believe that the spiritual side of CDA is one that we can concentrate on and improve.

So, while the world still seems to be shut down due to the continuing Coronavirus Pandemic, and even though

we have found it necessary to cancel the planned NY State Convention, the State Board has been busy planning for the future.

There are a few things that we are excited about and want to share the plans sooner rather than later.

The first is an exciting **Our Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage** set for October 18-23, 2018. I have been in contact with LeAnn Brand of LP Pilgrimages and together we have crafted a faith-filled and fun-filled trip to the sites of the Marian apparitions to St. Juan Diego outside of Mexico City, MX, to intriguing Aztec ruins and to colorful Mexican towns.

Past State Chaplain Fr. Ralph Sommer and I will lead this pilgrimage which is open to all Catholic Daughters, their family, and friends. See the enclosed brochure for additional information.

The next big plan is for **Pray & Play Retreat Weekends** to be held in various locations throughout the state over the summer months. These weekends will each accommodate approximately 35 members and be a combination of time together in prayer, meditation, inspiration, and fun for all.

Watch for details regarding the dates, costs, and locations to be sent to all Regents soon.

Our hope is that these times of spiritual reflection and Catholic Daughter sisterhood will help us all to recharge those CDA batteries and assist us all to come back together to carry out our Mission when we are once again permitted to gather for meetings, Masses, fellowship, and fundraisers that are an integral part of membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.



Supporting Our Seminarians & Scholarships

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

My dear sisters, it has been a year since our world has been turned upside down. Washing hands, social distancing and masks is a new way of life for us. We have now entered the holiest part of our Liturgical year. Lent is a time of praying, fasting and almsgiving. This fits right in with our Marie C. Curry Fund.

By now all the courts will have received their invoice for this year. I know that most of our courts have not been able to do many fund raisers. However, now with

the vaccines we may be able to see the end of the tunnel. We should think of small ways to raise money and allocate it just for this fund. Perhaps you could do a lottery calendar, take out barbecue or a gift card basket raffle.

Last year, we had all but four courts meet their obligation to the fund. I hope this year we can get 100% participation.

Please send your checks with two signatures and made out to *Catholic Daughters of the Americas* to:

Elaine Klesic, 244 Union Road Apt. 238,
West Seneca, NY 14224

May you all have a Happy and Glorious Easter.

Charities Are Experiencing A Time of Great Need

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Writing this mid-January, where do things stand where I left off in the December issue? Just the past couple days, things are looking up in my area of northern NY for the access of both COVID injections to be accomplished, and hopefully effective, in order for myself to feel comfortable to attend meetings and fundraisers again.

As stated in the December **Rising Dawn**, February 28th was the last postmark date that I, as State Chairman, can accept donations for National Projects and Charities from your courts to be credited in my report at the Convention. Since December 1st, I have received donations from:

Court Sacred Heart #370, Oyster Bay

Court Mother Admirable #592, Dannemora

Court Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw

Court Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell

Court St. Pius X #1690, Levittown

Hopefully others follow. We understand that these are trying times for many courts due to the COVID crisis, so do not despair. Many pastors have not allowed any meetings. Many courts are way behind on Financial Reviews and some will soon be due a second spring Review, but we have to first consider the health of our members and be very patient when we can resume. Putting all that aside, the charities we assist are not only dealing with COVID, but weather disasters and people are struggling with out food, water, shelter. Attendance in our churches is down, donations to our elderly religious are down, Catholic Relief Services, Disaster Relief, Covenant House, SOAR, Catholic Extension, Tutwiler Clinic. Look them up online if you need a clearer understanding of their work and who needs what. Whatever can be done is a blessing.

We all need to be kind, patient, respectful of opinions unlike our own and trust in our faith during these very trying times. God bless you and yours.

IN TIME OF DARKNESS,
HOLDING THE ROSARY
BEADS IS LIKE HOLDING
YOUR BLESSED
MOTHER'S HAND.

Treasurer's Report

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

It's hard to think of Spring right now, with the snow blowing around, but day light is getting longer! Time to start thinking about God and refreshing our lives with him. During this pandemic we have had to endure many changes in our everyday routine. Many of us no longer have loved ones, and friends with us here on earth, but we pray they are now with God and at peace. Time to renew our faith that we will all get through these tough times still ahead us. We must keep our fears at bay, and focus on what changes we can achieve, and by continuing to wear mask, wash and sanitizing our hands, social distance we will get through this together and be stronger then ever!

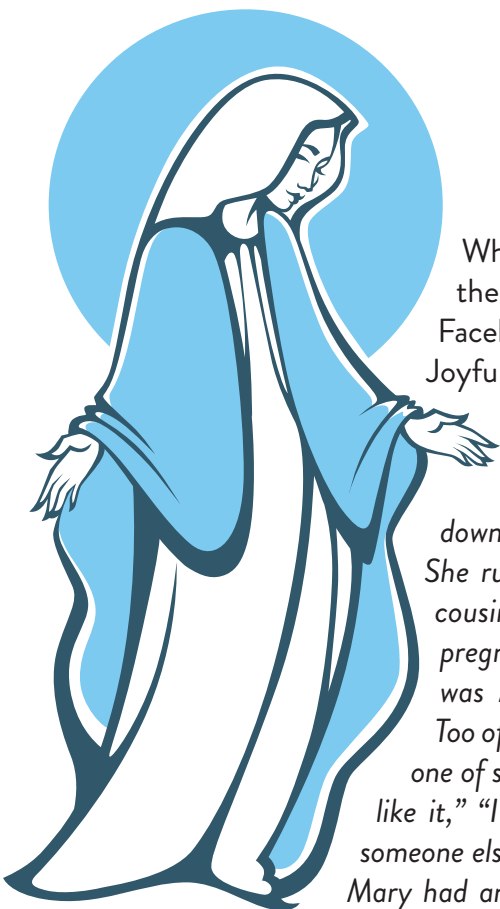
Thank you to all for mailing your checks to **State Secretary Marguerite Forde**. I go to the bank as soon as I receive the checks from Marguerite and I have been trying to recruit the 2 ladies that work there. They ask about CDA, and of course I gave them information. My granddaughter also loves going to the bank with me, because after we walk down the street to **Man Over the Moon** chocolate store!

I must say thank you all the ladies who have been praying on Facebook. I find it very comforting and knowing we are all praying together, even though we are apart! Thank you also for the prayers for my daughter and member, **Ann Marie Sterling**, her brain scan was clear and she returned back to work! God and prayer are powerful!

I wish all my Catholic Daughter sisters a blessed and Holy Easter, stay strong and we will get through this tough time together!

Mary, Our Mother: A Perfect Example

CONNIE BREINDEL, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT



While leading the rosary the other night on our Facebook page the second Joyful mystery stuck with me. Here is what I read: *God turned Mary's world upside down. What did Mary do? She rushed off to serve her cousin, Elizabeth, who was pregnant in her old age. It was Mary's first reaction. Too often our first reaction is one of selfishness: "I don't feel like it," "I'll do it later," "Can't someone else take care of it?" But Mary had an instinct to serve, an entrenched humility.*

How often have you thought those selfish things? I know I have, many times; and maybe, that is why that night it

stuck with me. It was that little nudge that I needed to stop thinking about myself and instead focus to be more like Mary. This Lenten season is the perfect time to start this renewal.

The Catholic Daughters is the perfect tool for this because of its foundation of **spirituality and service**. Courts throughout the organization are doing many great things for others like collecting items for outreach programs to aid new mothers, veterans, homeless, and children; sending cards and letters to the shut-ins; and making blankets and prayer shawls for those in need. The list of things that the women of this organization are doing for others would be endless.

Let us strive to be more like Mary with the instinct to serve others, an entrenched humility.

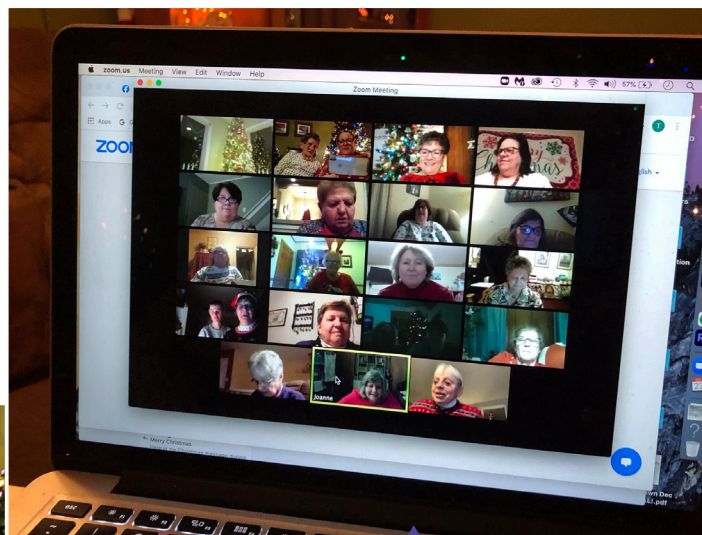
Side note: The rosary or prayer services are said Weeknights at 8pm and Theresa Duran leads a prayer service at 2pm Tuesdays and Thursdays. We are always looking for leaders for weeknights—why not give it a try!

Santa Sing-Along

On Wednesday, December 23rd approximately 25 members gathered on Zoom to join in some fun and frivolity with a Santa Sing-Along. All members throughout the state were invited, all courts received email notice and an invitation and the event was posted on the Catholic State NY State Facebook page.

We donned our most festive Christmas wear, enjoyed a few beverages and sang our little hearts out...not so much in unison, but with a lot of heart! LOL

The songs may not have been on pitch or our best concert, but we did have a lot of laughs and a great time bonding as sister Catholic Daughters!



A shot of the "meeting" with many joyful participants

First Vice State Regent Theresa Duran and her mother, member Mary Blaney, enjoying the carols and the spirit!

Loosing Trust

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

I must be straight with you. I am losing my trust in lots of things. Maybe you are too. I don't trust most politicians, I don't trust many used car salesmen, I don't trust much of the news media. I don't know what to believe about COVID and the vaccines. (Don't worry, I'm not getting political, I'm an equal opportunity non-truster). Life as I knew it just a year ago seems to be gone and I don't understand what happened. I want to hug people, I want to play bocce, I want to visit the sick and I don't want to get sick.

My trust in the Lord is showing cracks. Gasp!!! Yeah, I know. I'm the Chairperson of Spiritual Enhancement and I probably shouldn't write that because I'm supposed to enhance our faith and trust in God, and set a positive example. Well, I'm just feeling blah, but I don't like feeling like this. It does my health no good, it does my soul no good. So I went back to my lessons from Divine Mercy Essentials, the course I took last year and I asked myself, **how did St. Faustina develop her great trust in the Divine Mercy?** Surely I could learn something from her, right? I want what she had.

St. Faustina was a remarkable woman. I'm not saying anything new to you. I guess you'd say of course she was remarkable. She is a saint. I've just re-read her life story, and I'm realizing that I'm not coming anywhere close to the trust that she had. But I did find some clues about how she developed trust in The Divine Mercy. Maybe these will help me.

- St. Faustina sought Jesus as her constant companion no matter what she was doing. She removed from her life anything that prevented or interfered with her union with Jesus.
- St. Faustina did not seek consolation from people, but from Jesus. She says, "When I see that the burden is beyond my strength, I do not consider or analyze or probe into it, but I run like a child to the Heart of Jesus and say only one [thing] to Him: 'You can do all things.'"

And then I keep silent, because I know that Jesus Himself will intervene in the matter, and, as for me...I use that time to love Him" (Diary, 1033).

- St. Faustina prayed whenever and wherever she could and she prayed especially at the sacrifice of the Mass. She planned her prayer time and she improvised her prayer time as well. Any spare moment to her was an opportunity to communicate with her Savior.
- St. Faustina's regular reception of the sacrament of reconciliation was her way to meet Jesus and speak with Him Heart to heart. She was not a perfect soul and the more she visited with Jesus and bore her sins and faults to Him, the deeper grew her relationship with Him.
- St. Faustina was obedient to God's will every day in everything she did, big or small. She followed the example of The Little Flower and did small things with great love.
- St. Faustina followed through on Jesus' requests of her even though they seemed impossible. She tried very hard to develop an attitude of trust by practicing humility.

You know what? Maybe for the things of this world, not trusting everything you hear or read or see isn't such a bad thing. But I can't imagine how I could possibly live without trusting in Jesus. I've got to fortify my soul to seal up these cracks and prevent any more from starting. Have you ever felt the way I do?

I'm going to follow the example of St. Faustina as best as I can for where I am in my personal life and in this world of pandemic-mania. Hey, I'll never be a saint; just ask my family and friends, but I've got to do better than I'm doing and Jesus is the only way to get where I want to be. What do you think? Want to try some of these suggestions too? Let me know what you think. I really do want to know.

P.S. I will be praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy Novena beginning on Good Friday and continuing until Divine Mercy Sunday as we did last year. More information to follow on cdanys.org the Catholic Daughters NY State Facebook page.

O Light Eternal, who come to this earth, enlighten my mind and strengthen my will that I may not give up in times of great affliction. May Your light dissipate all the shadows of doubt. May Your omnipotence act through me. I trust in You, O uncreated Light!

—St. Maria Faustina Kowalska (Diary, 830)

**PATTI DRIVANOS,
STATE CHAIRMAN OF
QUALITY OF LIFE**

The COVID-19 pandemic has certainly brought worry and anxiety to the forefront of our lives. Our life routines and norms such as going to Church, meeting friends and family for celebrations or going shopping are no longer ways in which we manage our days.

Here are some things which can help:

Even simple actions such as making your bed, getting dressed, practice good hygiene (washing your hands), getting enough sleep and connecting with loved ones can help you feel more in control of your own well-being.

Practice relaxing in the present moment. Taking time to pray and giving thanksgiving for your blessings is a great way to center yourself in the moment.

If you continue to deal with stress and anxiety, speak with your doctor or a mental health provider.

**EILEEN PETERSON,
NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE CHAIR**

Dr. Martin Luther King said: *In order to change them we first must love them and they must know they are loved.*

As the 117 Congress begins, we must show the love of Christ to our elected representatives and pray for them on a daily basis to know God's will and then have the courage to act upon it for the good of our beloved America.

Catholic Daughters build up their communities with physical, spiritual and financial support for food banks,

retired religious, education, women
in crisis pregnancies, an end sex
trafficking and much more.

We support the dignity of every human person and value the most precious gift of LIFE Our Nation is in great need of prayer and **Our Lady of America** is interceding for us. Please pray to her.

You will be hearing from me with **Legislative Action Alerts**. Please make sure to send the information to the members of your court so that the information can be acted upon in a timely manner.

The good news is that the Supreme Court voted 6-3 to cease the selling of the dangerous chemical abortion cocktail known as Mifeprex (formerly RU 486) by mail. It's important for women in crisis pregnancies to know that after they

have swallowed the first pill called mifepristone, they can still save their baby by adding progesterone. According to the **Abortion Pill Rescue Network** there have been successful reversals when treatment was started within 72 hours of taking the first abortion pill. There is a 24 hour , nurse-staffed hot line: **1-877-558-0330**. The website is: **www.abortionpillreversal.com**

More good news is a brand new social media website that supports our Catholic values. It is called Triumph of LIFE and the website is **www.triumphoflife.org**

Lastly, it is God who is in control and it is in Him that we put all our trust.

God Bless You and God Bless the
United States of America.



BARBARA DREW, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

February 28th is the deadline for the Newsletter Contest. We are anxiously waiting to see all the amazing newsletters out there! Winners will be announced on April 10th. If you did not submit this year, now is a great time to start planning to enter your newsletter in next year's contest.

Do you have a newsletter? If not, consider starting one. A newsletter is a great way to get information out to the all the membership, new members and veteran members. Newsletters connect members to National & State information as well. Newsletters do not have to be a paper copy. Some courts use email to distribute their newsletters and save on the expense of the of postage and copies. If you choose this option don't forget those members without computers. Here is a little suggestion: leave a few copies of your newsletters in the church to share the news of our organization to possible new members!

Who prepares the newsletter? The Regent, Chairmen and members can contribute to the information that goes in the newsletter. Some Courts have an Editor that collects and organizes all the information; in others, the Regent does it herself.

Whether you have or are just starting a newsletter, please make sure your newsletter has the following:

1. CDA Mission Statement

2. CDA Registered Logo (can be located at catholicdaughters.org)

3. The Regent's and Editor's name and email address must appear near the nameplate at the top of the newsletter or in a designated editor block or at the end of the newsletter. If the Regent and/or editor do not have email, then an address and phone number are required. If you prefer not to use your personal address, a PO Box or church address could be used. Consider including contact Information for the Court Chaplain, District Deputy and email of all court officers.

4. Court name, number, and location must appear at the top of the first page of the newsletter

Now, think of all the information you want to include in your Court's Newsletter and start writing. Keep sharing our message of Unity & Charity! Have a blessed Easter.

What I Have Learned

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF,
STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.—Chinese Proverb

As I enter my second year as NYS Education Chair, I have had time to reflect on what I have learned over the past year. I learned my role as chairman by "doing" and by asking questions whenever I was unsure of something. The most valuable lesson I have learned is education and learning continue despite the COVID-19 pandemic

disruptions. I have discovered just how talented our students (and adults) in New York State are. I have been constantly amazed by each essay, poem, artwork, computer art, photography or music entry I have received. My judges have had difficult decisions to make to select winners in each category and I have not envied their jobs.

Furthermore, the Circle of Love reports I have received reflect just how important education and learning are to us as Catholic Daughters. Many individual NYS Courts award scholarship dollars to deserving students while other Courts create educational programs for adults and/or children on topics

ranging from computer literacy to rosary making. NYS CDA Courts certainly regard learning as the true treasure it is. We definitely "own this."

Thanks to each and every one of you and your Courts for all the support you have given me. This year's Education Contest winners and the outstanding and Circle of Love projects will be published after April. Please feel free to contact me (mewoll@aol.com or 845-297-5250) if you have any education questions. If I don't have an immediate answer for you, I will be sure to get you one. Stay well and safe.

Developing A Long Term Plan

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE JCDA/YOUTH CHAIRMAN

All Catholic Daughters working with youth in our parish communities and especially with our JCDA girls have received a calling from God which is a gift, graciously given for our humble service to all youth and JCDA girls. At times, this work can be tiring and wearing, especially when we're faced with the uncertainties of this pandemic crisis.

Acknowledging our need for restoration, we invite all leaders and advisors to accept the challenge of the call that God has placed upon each of our lives. We must breathe new life into our calling, renewing and sustaining the work of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and our JCDA Program.

We need to consider three points when we plan for the future of our program

1. A Sense Of Belonging

Youth must feel "at home" and "safe" at their meetings and youth ministry activities. If this happens, they will most likely stay actively involved.

2. A Sense Of Meaning

Youth must feel that their activities are filled with meaningful teaching, discussion, worship and relationships. If these aspects are part of the program they will likely keep coming back.

3. Opportunity To Develop Competence

While this factor is not as strong as the sense of belonging and meaning, youth need to develop through service or leadership opportunities. Given these opportunities, they will more likely stay engaged in the youth program and JCDA.

We must plan for the future and be ready to renew the work of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in the Youth/JCDA segment of the Circle of Love Program.

If your court has not completed the **Circle of Love Form** for Youth/JCDA I would ask that you do so in spite of the fact that they were due by February 28th. We would still

like to hear from you and know that you will make the commitment, to be part of the challenge presented to our New York State Leaders and Advisors.

I would like to thank those court leaders and chairman who have sent in their forms. God bless you for your dedication and perseverance. We will compile a complete report of the activities that are taking place in New York State.

Unfortunately, we have many courts that have not been allowed to meet in their regular meeting places. The winter weather does not allow outside meeting and activities. Please don't get discouraged because we live with hope in our hearts. We believe that this too shall pass. In the meantime, get creative with technology. Use Facebook, emails and Zoom. Let us know what you are doing.

In closing, I quote the words of Helen Keller who said, **When you do the best you can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life or in the life of another.**

RECEIVING A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE RISING DAWN

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

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

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**.

To be added to the email edition subscription list, please send your request to:

Editor **Theresa Duran** at **tduran@optonline.net** and **Karen Rave** at **krave@hvc.rr.com**

Lent

A Time for Review & Renewal

MARGUERITE FORDE, NEW YORK STATE SECRETARY



As I write this snow is gently falling. Looking out the window I see a beautiful landscape of trees and plants accessorized by feathery soft flakes of snow. It seems to be telling us to take a break and breathe in the beauty of the moment; to enjoy this wintry fairyland that our Lord has provided as a respite from the hustle and bustle of our world today.

As you read this we will be in the Season of Lent. The usual practice for the season is to abstain from something you like (chocolate, ice cream, the iPad, etc.) and to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays. Why not add something different this year by performing a random act of kindness each day? It can be as simple as saying good morning to a stranger, donating food to your local pantry, or bringing extra blankets to your local animal shelter. We are CDA and we have Constant Devotion Always.

The Fall dues invoices have gone out, although a little later than normal. Please try to get them paid as the Spring dues will be mailed by the beginning of May. Also, there are many courts who have not sent in any Financial Reviews for 2020. Please remember these reviews are to be performed in April and October each year. I know the COVID situation has hindered getting together in the usual fashion. Please contact your District Deputy for ideas on how to accomplish completing these reviews. Remember that there is always a way given enough thought, creativity, and determination. Speak to other courts to share ideas on how they completed their Financial Reviews.

I would like to end with an Irish blessing that I think is perfect to life today and something I wish for each and every one.

May God give you:

For every storm, a rainbow; For every tear, a smile;

For every care, a promise; And a blessing in each trial;

For every problem life sends; A faithful friend to share;

For every sigh, a sweet song; And an answer for each prayer.

We are well aware that it is difficult time for many courts, especially those who's Pastors are not permitting meetings on church property; however, dues must be paid and Financial Reviews must be completed and submitted. A three member Review Committee can meet with the District Deputy at a house, a Panera or a Starbucks. Please contact your DD to make plans to complete any overdue Financial Review.

Leadership During a Pandemic

LINDA MANCHESTER,
STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

It's that time of the year, the **Circle of Love** reports are due. As courts, we can show everyone what we have accomplished throughout the previous year. For this past year, due to the COVID, we have been challenged.

Some of our Catholic Daughters experienced the effects of COVID and are now with the Lord. Many courts were not able to meet for many months and when we did it was via Zoom or social distancing at meetings. Some members due to their age were not comfortable meeting and so it became apparent that, we as leaders, needed to ensure they were kept up to date. What did your court do to keep your members informed? Were you able to help your parish in any way? Did you lead your court in prayer, do the Rosary? I realize it has been difficult since March of last year but prior to then you have done wonderful things.

To date, as of February 5, 2021, I have only received three reports for Leadership. I know that by the time you read this the deadline will have gone by, but my hope is that by February 28th, I will have more to read. Don't sell your court short.

I know I have said this before, but our state leadership, past and present, have risen to the occasion. They sacrificed their time to help us through this crisis. This is what leaders do.

I ask you to do the same. Your members need you: comfort them, reassure them, bring them together in prayer and projects and help your Court sustain and flourish well past this pandemic.

Redefining Family in the Time of Coronavirus

CHRISTINA BIGELOW, STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

COVID 19 certainly has redefined the meaning of Family and our essential needs to sustain a healthy mind, body and soul. It showed us the true value of the word Family through our praying angels, caregivers, teachers, nurses, doctors, EMTs, firemen, policeman, and the essential needs of a compassionate hug, words of respect, encouragement, inspiration, motivation and appreciation, and lastly the significance of immunizations, hand sanitizers, face masks and, yes, even toilet paper.

Those who put Philippians 4:6-7 (*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus*) into action brought hope, love and comfort to the fearful, the hungry, the financially burdened, the sick, and the essential workers.

Many Courts have shown how the gifts of love, faith, courage, and creative ideas have paved the way to the new normal and have shown that with *God all things are possible* as they serve His family.

So many courts, members, officers and leaders in CDA have spent time during this pandemic taking care of **Family**, in many forms. They have sewn and donated masks, they have adopted families in need, they have held drive by baby showers and visits with shut-in members, they have collected clothing to be recycled and participated in our state-wide **Thank You Project**.



My sister, who passed on to her Eternal Home on January 1st, 2021, took her bone cancer journey with strength, courage, faith, love and joy because each and every time she was overwhelmed with fear or pain, she would ask for prayers and then would put her Trust in God and her many Praying Angels—always with a gift of complete comfort and warmth of love. Due to the fact that she did not want to be in a hospital room without a family member by her side, she chose to live her last few hours at home. These hours were agonizing both for her and her loved ones, but also a witness to the work of God's Grace when she found more comfort by listening to us pray the rosary or listening to her favorite Christian Songs than she did from taking any kind of pain meds. Truly an example of how essential Praying Angels, faith and love go beyond anyone's understanding (especially the medical field) as *HE stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.—Psalms 107:29*

2021: The Year of St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son: in you Mary placed her trust: with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.



AROUND THE STATE

The COVID-19 Journey of Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park

When I received this year end letter from **Regent Louise Daconta, of Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park**, I felt the need to share with you all what can be accomplished with some outside of the box thinking. I did need to edit it a bit, but I think you get the idea. Maybe this can help inspire your court:

Dear Friends: As I compose this letter, my mind returns to all of the good works that our Court has participated in, produced and executed since the onset of COVID-19, and I would like to share them with you. ...Somehow, by the Grace of God, we here in Court Ave Maria, chose to rise above it and we did! I am fiercely proud of all that we, as a team, accomplished. You have much to be proud of, for you (once again) put the needs of others before your own and your Christian spirits have shown through! In spite of the fact that we were unable to meet as a Court, in person, we still managed to act in unison, doing the work God called each of us to do. Here are just some of the highlights of our Courts COVID-19 journey:

In April 2020, we participated in a letter writing campaign to the elderly residents of our local nursing homes. We brought smiles and a bit of joy to those who were confined and isolated from their loved ones.

We also embarked on our mask making campaign, initially to help the health care workers because of their short supply. Then we were contacted by the SCPD Chaplin requesting masks for the residents of the less fortunate neighborhoods. Wow! Our Court truly stepped up to the plate on this project and because of this, we literally helped hundreds of people to stay safe and protected, while staying quite fashionable at the same time!

In May, June, July and August, we continued with our Mask Making Project, as well as supplying our Veterans with many needed items to help them acclimate to the lockdown. Once again, the ladies of Court Ave Maria went above and beyond and we sent gardening supplies, snacks, books, games and more! ...We also continued to contribute to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Even when toilet paper and paper towels were so scarce, we managed to share what we had with those in need. In June, the church finally reopened and volunteers were needed to sanitize the church after each Mass. The ladies of Court Ave Maria put aside their own fears and jumped in to help out...

In September, we were finally able to gather in person and held our first meeting since February. We continued to support the Food Pantry, the Veterans, the Womens Shelter and the Nursing Home residents. We also instituted a new "Blessing Baskets" program to bring a bit of cheer to our homebound members. This has been a huge success, and our homebound ladies love to know that we are thinking of them and they especially enjoy all of the goodies they receive! The Womens shelter was thrilled to receive our many donations, but especially the matching scarves, hats and gloves that are keeping the ladies warm and in fashion through this cold winter season.

In October, we sponsored a "drop and go" baby shower for the Life Center in Deer Park. We opened this up to the Parish and we were overwhelmed by the positive response! The Life Center was thrilled at the outpouring of the generosity of the CDA and the parishioners of St. Josephs Church!

We also initiated a new Fall Fundraiser; a month-long raffle ticket. ...And as if this wasn't enough, our Court also sponsored a Rosary Rally in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on the sidewalk in front of the church and dozens of people showed up to pray the rosary with us!

In November, the Life Center needed our help again, but this time it was for the families that the Life Center supports. They were in need of Christmas presents because their former parishes that had supported them in the past, were unable to help out this year. With a resounding "Yes!" Court Ave Maria voted to help out! ...we opened this up to the Parish and all I can say is that because of our generosity there were literally hundreds of happy children on Christmas!

Our Court also sponsored a parish-wide Election Eve Prayer Vigil, held in the church, which was well attended by CDA members and our fellow parishioners. It was a peaceful, reverent service which brought all together as one, to pray for the future of our Nation.

For Thanksgiving, we continued to support the food pantry by generously supplying gift cards for families in need.

So, you can see that being a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Ave Maria, is more than just "a nice Catholic organization," we are a group of women who hear and heed God's call over and over, even in the most difficult situation imaginable! For this, I am extremely proud to call myself a Catholic Daughter, particularly a Catholic Daughter member of Court Ave Maria! Thank you all for making this possible.

May the Lord Bless and keep you. With Prayers, Gratitude and Love, Louise Daconta, Regent

Sale of Articles

All New York State merchandise is now available from our **State Chairman for Sale of Articles Linda Bolt**.

Pictured here are some of the shirts currently available from NY State. No matter the size, all shirts are just \$15, plus postage. They are available in size small-4XL while supplies last.

We also have face masks available. These face masks are light and breathable making them comfortable to wear. Masks are \$10 each, but if you purchase 10 or more, they are only \$8 each.

We also have pens, pins, shirts, jackets, lunch bags, patches and more! Watch for additions to our website that will feature our merchandise.

To order, contact Linda at:
59 Caldwell Dr., West Seneca, NY 14224
716-668-3047 mariebolt@gmail.com



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



Face masks feature a pattern of the Cross & Crown logo



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



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



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

*In Unity & Charity,
Heather, Theresa, Connie,
Marguerite, Judy
& Fr. Newcomb*

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.

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
MAR 28TH	PALM SUNDAY
APR 1ST	HOLY THURSDAY
APR 2ND	GOOD FRIDAY
APR 4TH	EASTER SUNDAY
APR 11TH	DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
APR 30TH	BIRTHDAY OF IMMEDIATE PAST STATE REGENT MARY ZIESIG
MAY 3RD	BIRTHDAY OF PAST STATE REGENT MARY IMPELLIZERI
MAY 7TH	JUNE RISING DAWN DEADLINE
MAY 9TH	MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 13TH	ASCENSION THURSDAY
MAY 23RD	PENTECOST
MAY 31ST	MEMORIAL DAY
JUN 1ST	BIRTHDAY OF PAST NATIONAL REGENT HELENE SHEPARD