



The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

December 2021

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

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

Are You Ready?

THERESA DURAN, STATE REGENT

My Dear Sisters,

So, here I am, running behind schedule and starting with an apology for the lateness of this issue. I thought life might ease up after the busy summer, alas I was mistaken!

Our fantastic, inspiring **Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe** in October was followed by a short hospital stay for me (not related to the trip – again, I am fine now), recovery took awhile; **PNR Helene Shepard** and I attended the National Retreat in Benet Lake Wisconsin; and before I knew it, Thanksgiving was here! I REALLY needed to get working on **Rising Dawn**...and I needed to prepare for Christmas. But when? How? Life was still so busy!

My answer came at Mass this morning. My Pastor, **Fr. Chris Nowak** spoke about *Preparing The Way For The Lord*. He likened our preparation to a road that is blocked by boulders and plagued with potholes – things that must be removed and repaired for us to not only make our way to the stable, but to clear the roadway for Christ to be born in our hearts and for us to be ready to greet Him when He comes again.

These boulders, potholes and various obstacles, he said, were things like pride, criticism, gossip, judging, jealousy, hatred, prejudice...his list hit home in many ways. Is my heart truly prepared for the coming of the Lord? Is yours?

I try, I really do, but I know that I fall short in many ways. Many times I judge, I

gossip, I am proud. I need to let go of myself to make way for Jesus in my heart. I am not perfect, none of us are. The Perfect One was crucified, right?

We all need to let go of our preconceived notions, our learned behaviors, our worldly ways to make room for Christ and to **Seek Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly with God**.

Do we still refer to people of other faiths, nationalities or colors as “those people” or “them”? Are we afraid of interacting, engaging, understanding people that might (on the outside) seem different from us? Do we judge their speech as if we are superior? Do we criticize their dress or their customs just because we don’t share them? Do we gossip about their actions because we might do things differently? Do we even realize that we don’t walk in their shoes or live their experience or know what is in their minds or motivates their hearts?

I don’t mean to be “preachy,” sorry, but Fr. Chris has me thinking. Is my heart ready to welcome Christ at Christmas? Am I ready to welcome Christ when He comes again? Are you? I hope so! I will continue to try, I hope you will do the same. In the meantime, enjoy a blessed Advent, and then, have a Merry & Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Unity & Charity,



Running In Advent

REV. RALPH SOMMER, STATE CHAPLAIN

We are in the midst of running around to prepare for Christmas. Advent, which is meant to be a time of reflective, patient waiting often loses out to this “Christmas Rush,” and we can easily skip the spirituality of this holy season.

In fact have you noticed how many people and groups hold their Christmas parties before the season of Christmas? (Christmas begins in the evening of the 24th of December and runs to the Baptism of the Lord -- even more than twelve days!) It seems that the only thing that keeps us from running around as frantically as in the past is a pandemic that has kept us away from some gatherings and the internet that lets us do our “running around” online.

So it was with wonder that I noticed the words in the opening prayer for the First Sunday of Advent. The prayer actually encouraged running! Here’s what it says:

“Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.”

Running is a different kind of waiting, isn’t it? When we usually think of waiting, the most action we might conjure up is pacing, but here the church is picturing each of us waiting for the second coming of Jesus by running toward him with “righteous deeds.”

Picture a young girl who just made something in art class for her mom and when her mother comes to pick her up, the girl rushes to her and says, “see what I made you!!” Advent is a time to do the same with Jesus. We run to him in prayer saying, “See what I made you!”, or perhaps “See what I made of myself for you!” We are so anxiously joyful to meet him and we are so proud of all we’ve been doing in our lives.

So as we run toward Christmas this year, let us run not to Amazon or Macy’s, not to the eggnog bowl or the cookies (at least not yet), but to prayer with Jesus. He wants to spend intimate time with you as he comes again – and you can’t catch COVID from being close to him!



IN LOVING MEMORY



BY EMMA LOU SMITH,
PAST STATE OFFICER

The New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas mourns the October 31, 2021, death of **Past State Officer Marianne Eaton**. She fought a courageous battle against pancreatic cancer.

Marianne was a member and past officer of **Court Our**

Lady #1250, Oneida, followed by consecutive terms on the State Board as State Secretary, Second Vice State Regent and First Vice State Regent.

Her winning smile and sense of purpose opened many avenues to further our mission of service and spiritually. She was “queen” of discoveries for convention bags, clipboards and the “treats” found in our convention bags. Many will remember her

Chairmanship of Sale of Articles and the Mass cards. Throughout the Diocese of Syracuse, Buffalo and Rochester, Marianne was well respected and warmly greeted. Court visitations, financial reviews, and Past Regents Chapter’s Memorial Masses and luncheons in Western New York provided her an opportunity to represent the New York State Board and connect with these essential members of our organization.

Marianne always had time to listen and interact with her sisterhood. Her lifetime experiences, creativity, deep faith and wisdom were shared without judgment. She sought all solutions to further the membership considering the local situation whatever that was.

Marianne was a devoted wife, mother, grandma and sister. Thank you Marianne for your faith, years of service and friendship. She has left a lasting legacy on all she met. God grant her eternal peace.

Condolences can be sent to: Tom Eaton, 7 Catherine St., Williamsville, NY 14221 or Jennifer Sharkey, 12 Van Epps St., Vernon, NY 13476

Travels With The State

CONNIE BREINDEL, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT



The past few months have been very busy for me as your First Vice State Regent, traveling all around the state to attend the various functions and celebrations. I knew that I wanted to be more visible throughout the state especially because that was impossible in the beginning of the pandemic. I wanted to meet and talk with ladies that I don't normally see at the state conventions and encourage them to realize there is more to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas than just their local courts or the neighboring courts. Even with a bad left knee, I ventured out and about because I thought it was important that I be there.

We organized three **Pray & Play Weekends** that were phenomenal, if I do say so myself. (Actually, we only heard great things from those that attended and are in planning stages for next year. Consider attending one in the future, you won't be disappointed.)

I was able to attend memorial masses in the **Dioceses of Rockville Centre, Albany, Rochester,** and the **Archdiocese**. Each one was different, but the theme

was the same, honoring and remembering those wonderful Catholic Daughters that have recently passed away and joined the heavenly court. In one weekend, I helped celebrate the 100th anniversary of 2 local courts on a Saturday and institute a new court on that Sunday. I have put over 4,600 miles on my car since I got it mid-August, and I am still working from home! In fact, the app tells me that I will be over 60,000 miles at the end of my lease, well over the miles I am allotted. I know that I will not be traveling like that during the winter months so I should be okay.

Traveling to Mexico on the pilgrimage sponsored by the NY State Board was amazing!

Even though I was limited because of my bad knee I knew I still had to go. There was a lot of walking and I had to take a cab twice, it was still something I couldn't pass up. I had a brace on my knee, used my cane, and took painkillers; it still was painful to walk a lot and I was always looking for a place to sit and rest. I found a greater appreciation for everything we did and saw once I was home. Seeing an incorruptible body (Blessed Sebastian of Aparico), Aztec Sun and Moon pyramids, and the Tilma of St. Juan Diego were of course the highlights of this trip. My only downside was not appreciating the miracle of the Tilma when I was looking right at it because of the pain.

I am hoping when I look back at the trip years from now, I won't remember that, just the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Welcome Court St. Raymond #2773, Bronx



After 2 years of planning and hard work by **Immediate Past State Regent Heather Rave** and **Past National Regent Helene Shepard**, **Court St Raymond #2773, Bronx**, was instituted on September 19, 2021. Chaplain Father James Cruz, Regent Alison DeJesus, the board and all members are already working hard to strengthen the court and grow the membership. Feel free to send a note of encouragement to Alison DeJesus, 4100 Hutchinson River Parkway East H23B, Bronx NY 10475. Let's assure them of our support and pray for their future success!



Breathing The Spirit Into Our Courts

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT

My Dear Sisters in New York,
Blessings and Happy Advent!

I write this letter to you in the hopes that your Thanksgiving holiday was full of joy and warmth. I also write this letter with gratitude: it was the gift of a lifetime to be part of your state's sponsored pilgrimage to Mexico alongside our Past National Regent, Helene Shepard, as well as the New York State Regent, Theresa Duran. Meeting, laughing, and worshiping with so many of you was a tremendous blessing for me. I know the Lord gives us what we need when we need it, and I am thankful for His providence through your state pilgrimage.

Of course, as we begin Advent, we begin to prepare for the guests who will be joining us for the holiday, preparing to travel, buying gifts for beloved children and grandchildren. Yet, I encourage and entreat you: spend time each day focusing on preparing your heart for the coming of Christ at Christmas, and for His second coming. It is far too easy to become wrapped up in wrapping presents, cleaning, and decorating our homes, but not prepare our hearts for the most important Guest in the universe. Here are five important steps I would like to challenge each of you, my dear sisters, to take in order to make this Advent as fruitful as possible, and just like preparing our homes for guests, it readies our souls to receive.

1. Send Out An Invitation

Just as you may need to call or text loved ones to come over for Christmas Dinner, you need to invite Christ into your heart. Do this daily as a reminder to our hearts Who we are preparing ourselves for.

2. Stock Up On Good Food

Menu planning and groceries are important when hosting guests, so make sure to receive the most holy and pure food in the universe – the Eucharist. As you approach the altar during mass, remember Who it is you are receiving – the Creator, the One Who loves and be ready to share that love with everyone you encounter.

3. Clean Out Those Guest Rooms And Guest Closets

If you're like me, cleaning and purging things makes me

feel better whenever I'm feeling stressed or upset. So, clean out the cobwebs and junk in your hearts and on your souls – go to reconciliation. For the past two years, we have been locked down, quarantined, and witnesses to political and social unrest and violence. Our hearts are weary! Bring all your burdens to Christ in the confessional. We are so fortunate to have this sacrament at our disposal. In my years of ministry, I have never met anyone who regrets going to reconciliation.

4. Remember Those Who Have Nothing

Seek out and serve Christ in the needy and poor. Buy those \$5 fleece blankets from Walmart and donate them to emergency foster care facilities. For every canned food item you buy for your family, buy one for a soup kitchen or community pantry. Direct funds to your parish youth ministry for a deserving teen to attend a much-needed retreat. Give all those rosaries, saint medals, and holy cards I know you have stockpiled to a parish religious education ministry so they can dispense them to children who need to learn how to pray.

5. Drink Some Hot Cocoa

That's it, seriously. Take some time for you to unwind and savor the sweetness of hot cocoa while you consider the sweet, abundant love of God and the grace He has poured into your life.

My prayers and love are with you during this holiday season. May the Lord of life and love bless you and your families tremendously throughout this new liturgical year.

In Unity & Charity, Emily

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.

Pandemic "ALIVE"!

CHRISTINA R. PACKWOOD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF QUALITY OF LIFE

Two years into COVID and so much has changed our **Quality of Life**. It is already Fall of 2021, where Summer has eased out of our lives, Fall flows in and Winter is just around the corner. Many of us have been through so much: isolation; lost jobs; being separated from loved ones; death of family members, our friends, and even our pets in such very difficult times.

What have you done to help those in need? There are many possible answers in the day-to-day happenings of our world around us, as individuals or groups like our CDA courts. Many worry about having enough food, or water, shelter or even fuel for the coming winter. We are all busy thinking of our neighbors, our fellow parishioners, school for our children or grandchildren, doctor appointments, medications, assisted living or nursing homes for loved ones and many other situations that run through our minds daily. What do we do?

Here is where you take a step back and ask yourself – Can I work at a soup kitchen, a clothing store, or donate to them? Can I pray the rosary with other Catholic Daughters, do adoration or attend daily Mass? Can I knit or crochet lap robes for the elderly or make baby bibs, hats, or small blankets for Baptisms? Can I drive someone to an appointment, baby sit children to allow a parent time to shop for their family or even pick up groceries? Can I make phone calls to other CDA members to just talk or ask "How can I help?" Can I offer to take someone to a food pantry, or make a box of articles for the **Gabriel Project** or **Birthright**? Can I send a card or gift to a seminarian or send my Pastor a hello or prayer card? Oh my! I could go on forever. Yes, these things are Unity and Charity, and as Catholic Daughters it is our duty to help our families, our parish, and our community during these days of strife for so many.

Many big holidays are coming up, let us put the **light of Christ** into our lives, to make our times of giving special and rewarding, with acts of kindness to give hope, love and faith to those we love, serve, and care for.

Quality of Life is not just the things we do as individuals, but as a CDA court as well. There are many courts around our beautiful state that do so much for their parish and community by supporting large organizations to helping the person next door. You are a spoke in the Circle of Love. Ladies, be yourselves. Help where and whenever you can, but please remember **you**. Take time to let go of your daily routines and give to yourself a time to regroup, read, pray, exercise, call a friend and just be you and to remember say **Jesus I trust in You** always!

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived – that is to have succeeded." We Catholic Daughters do everything we can to help the youngest to the eldest have a better Quality of Life, be it today or tomorrow, we go forth to serve Our Lord, our families, our parish, and our community.

Enjoy every day, keep praying, be kind and smile because God loves **you**. Have a a Glorious Christmas and a Wonderful New Year. Stay safe.

Bishop Pics!

Theresa with Bishop Andrzej,
Auxiliary Bishop of RVC



Connie hands a donation to
Bishop Fisher, Bishop of Buffalo



Theresa met up with Bishop Barres,
Bishop of Rockville Centre at a Mets game



Theresa gives our donation to
Bishop Scharfenberger of Albany



Caring & Sharing

KATHY KNOTT STATE CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH/JCDA



In Faith Formation classes we share our faith with little children; telling them about a loving Father creating the sun and moon for day and night; the land and sea, filled with blossoms, trees, animals and fish.

They learn the Lord created humans; created them male and female and was so pleased. We teach the children to pray in thanksgiving for all of creation. We remind them to use the gifts and talents bestowed on them. We ask the children to name family and friends who love them and whom they love as well. The children are taught how to care for their health and enjoy the goodness of their life with others.

Sounds familiar? Sure, we all know the story of creation in Genesis; and so it was...God saw all He made and indeed it was very good...evening came and morning followed; the 6th day. Can you imagine yourself being with the Lord, God the Father and Creator that very first week? How awesome would that have been! How much more would we appreciate the passage of time as every day turns into a night with twinkling stars glowing for our pleasure? If we could have watched the Master craftsmen mold the earth's mountains and fill the valleys with water, would we be more inclined to protect the environment? When have you sat under the shade of a tree, listening to the birds sing while you savor a piece of fresh fruit? Not often enough, I'll bet. The Creator planned for the blossoms and animals to nurture us and we in turn were made to nurture and care for each other.

Caring and Sharing! It is easy to care about our family and friends but what about the lonely neighbor; or the crabby old uncle; or that chatty lady in church? Care enough to stop to say hello to them. Did you have enough to eat today, yesterday too? Give some food away tomorrow; bake a cake or make a goodie bag and deliver it to someone as a surprise.

Evening will come and morning will follow. You will see all you have done and it will be indeed very good.

Jesus Can Do Anything – Juniors Can Do Anything

The Power of the St. Andrew Christmas Novena

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

Many years ago I discovered the **St. Andrew Christmas Novena** prayer. This is a great novena to prepare for Christmas. Here it is:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment In which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, (here mention your request), through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

It isn't really a novena in the traditional sense, because it isn't 9 days long, it's 25 days long. And, when you pray it, you are not even mentioning St. Andrew. It is, in fact a meditative prayer on the incarnation and has been called the Christmas Anticipation Prayer. It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas novena prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas Eve will obtain the favor requested.

I'll be praying this 25 day Novena beginning November 30th. How about you?

NYS CDA Scholarships

JOANNE LEONARDI, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2022 Catholic Daughters of the Americas New York State Court Scholarship application is now available online at cdanys.org, and included with this newsletter.

We award three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating Seniors of the Class of 2022. This scholarship is open to any daughter, son, or dependent of a New York CDA member that has been accepted to a 4-year school. (See the application for full requirements.) Please announce this scholarship to all of your members.

All completed applications, with supporting documentation should be sent to:

Joanne Leonardi
32 Johnson Avenue North
Kings Park, NY 11754

by the April 15, 2022, deadline.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at 631-379-1585.

THANK YOU PROJECT

MARYLYNN BORST, STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

In early September, we put out the call to all New York State Catholic Daughters and their courts to participate in our New York State project, for the Family spoke of the Circle of Love, called **The Thank You Project**. I am happy to report that 28 courts participated, and we are sending 2,993 cards to **A Million Thanks** in California to distribute to servicemen and women throughout the year!

Thanks to all who encouraged their members, and even their parishes, to participate in this simple project of writing a note of thanks for the sacrifices made by our military and veterans. It will make a difference to them when they receive these good wishes!

Among the 2,993 cards were cards and drawings made by children, and we even some in Spanish! Every note will put a smile on the face of a worthy service member and remind them that they are never forgotten! These notes show them the importance of our national "family" and how much we appreciate the commitment they have made, despite having to leave their own families behind for some time. This small gesture on our part can change a life!

The following courts are to be commended:

Ct. Rita #264, Cornwall
Ct. St. Bridget #265, Ilion
Ct. Sacred Heart #370, Oyster Bay
Ct. Patricia #346, Glen Cove
Ct. Our Lady of Victory #375, Bay Shore
Ct. McLaughlin #422, Saratoga Springs
Ct. Immaculata #444, Mineola
Ct. Mother Admirable #592, Dannemora
Ct. Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw
Ct. of the Assumption #690, Maybrook
Ct. Margaret Mary #768, Monroe
Ct. Ave Maria #832, Kings Park
Ct. Pere le Moyné #833, Fulton
Ct. Queen of Angels #869, Hicksville
Ct. Genevieve Walsh #918, Goshen
Ct. Nativity of Our Lady #931, Brockport
Ct. St. Joseph #975, Ronkonkoma
Ct. Nilan #985, Highland
Ct. St. Michael #1173, Penn Yan
Ct. Our Mother of Good Counsel #1311, Blasdell
Ct. Lily of the Mohawk #1451, Champlain
Ct. Our Lady of the Snows #1548, Lyon Mountain
Ct. St. Pius X #1690, Levittown
Ct. Father John P. Mooney #1921, Mahopac
Ct. St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram
Ct. Queen of Life #2664, Commack

For those courts that did not participate, we plan to make this an annual event, so please try again for next year. In fact, you can start writing them now! Imagine how much closer we could get to our original goal of 5,000 cards & notes!

Thank you to everyone that participated in our Park Lane Jewelry Fundraiser

As you are aware, the New York State Board has decided to begin the process of working towards sponsoring our third **Habitat for Humanity** Home in New York!

This is a long term goal as we must raise half of the funds needed

before we can apply to National for partnership. We hope to raise the funds necessary within the next 3-5 years. The decision has been made to use profits from our Park Lane Jewelry Sale towards the seed money for this project. That means that every item you purchase from the fundraiser will not only return 50% profit to the State, but it will help give a home to a family.

Purchase a gift for someone, a treat for yourself or a prize for a

court raffle! Please review the items at parklanejewelry.com/store/start/fundraiser/2594 and help make this year's sale a success. The sale will end on December 12, 2021.

If you would rather send a direct donation for the Habitat Project, please send checks, made payable to *Catholic Daughters of the Americas*, to: Anna Lucia

State Chairman for Nat'l Projects
PO Box 713
Dannemora, NY 12929

National Projects & Charities

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

If any of you readers had the privilege of attending one of the **Pray & Play** retreats over the summer, I'm sure the words of the song **Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With God** are still running through your mind. This message goes hand-in-hand with the State's theme for the next two years, **Seek Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With God (Micah 6:8)**

We are reminded through this that we are to love God above all things, our neighbor as much as ourself. We are God's hands and feet, to bring the good news to the world. It will not always be easy... there will be good and bad, but what we do will bring us closer to God and if we treat others with mercy, as God is always merciful with us, we will one day hopefully see eternal life and see the good we have done.

Being God's hands and feet is exactly what we are doing when we donate to the National Projects and Charities, but better yet, rather than just writing a check, why not do a special fundraiser for a Project or Charity? I know COVID has made fundraising a bit more difficult but put your thinking caps on and if your court is not able to have a larger group gather, think of something that may require only one or two people selling tickets. Maybe a couple other people could bake a pie or a seasonal cake for

chances to sell, or candy even with the holidays coming. Maybe a few would donate lottery tickets, movie tickets, stocking stuffing items that everyone needs before Christmas. There are oodles of things if you all think together and you are truly using your hand and feet for God

Looking at the Projects, when we donate to SOAR: providing for immediate health needs for our retired aging religious; things like walkers, orthopedic needs, transportation needs, home repairs, etc.; HOLY CROSS/HOLY FAMILY MINISTRIES: promoting the Rosary via various media as the Blessed Mother is our Patroness; LABOURÉ: providing assistance to those who need help in pursuing education for priesthood and religious life; NCOSE: fighting the terrors of porn, human trafficking, exploitation of women; HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: building homes for those who cannot afford to build but do have means to sustain. **What wonderful things our hands and feet can do!** Maybe a specific fundraiser would even allow more than that \$20 donation. Don't forget they NYS is saving up to sponsor our third Habitat build.

In closing, I hope you all have a joyful, Merry Christmas as once again we celebrate the humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be safe and God bless you and yours this special season of love

Supporting Seminarians... & More!

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

Hello to all my sisters in CDA. What a year this has been. I hope that all your Courts are back to having your regular meetings and are able to have your terrific fundraisers. We are coming upon a new year for our **Marie C. Curry Fund** which is our only way in which we can give our yearly checks to the Bishops to help our seminarians and also sponsor our State Education Contests.

As you know, I will be sending you an invoice based on the number of members you have as of the September 2021 billing. This assessment does not require a vote from the members to be paid.

When you receive your invoice, let your treasurer know the amount so she can write a check made out to *Catholic Daughters of the Americas*. There should be two signatures on the check. The check is sent to me at:

Elaine Klesic, Chairman
2244 Union Road Apt 238
West Seneca, NY 14224

We can be thankful for all of God's Blessings. I know we have lost some of our dear sisters and I hope they will all be remembered during this Holiday Season. I wish you all a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

PRAYER

The most important
conversation of your day



A Spiritual Reflection of Our Pilgrimage

SISTER MICHELE RUGGIERO, CSAC

As I think back about the Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico, I realize I actually began the trip long before leaving for the airport.

These last few years I have witnessed a profound devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe right in my own parish where there is a large population of people from Mexico. So, upon arriving at the sanctuary, it felt so very familiar. Traveling with the Catholic Daughters was yet another experience of familiarity with women who shared my faith as well as a desire to pray at the various churches and shrines of Old City Mexico. The shrine itself, the original Tilma of St. Juan Diego was striking, mounted on a huge brick wall, encased in a glass frame, emblazoned with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe—it seemed huge, bigger than life.

My faith was strengthened even more greatly upon seeing so many other people filled with devotion, adding to the sincerity of faith we all share.

I was impressed also that day with how modern technology met up with ancient and pre-Hispanic culture. This was reflected as we gazed at the glass-encased Tilma while standing on electronically moving walkways. It was reported that millions of people visit this shrine annually, it being one of the most visited sanctuaries in the world.

Alongside the more modern looking basilica stands the original basilica completed in 1709. I was in awe to see the ancient architecture of the original basilica with its finely detailed turrets and wood carved altars. Walking within the walls, covered with paintings by unknown artists of centuries brought up in me an admiration for the faith of the people of those early centuries.

Every church we visited was exquisitely built and decorated with gold-leaf skillfully plated upon the wood

carved images. I wondered—as I marveled at the ornate altars and statues—how the people of the 16th century managed to build such beautifully large shrines to Our Lord and Our Lady without any of our modern machinery. Each and every church we visited spoke to me of the intense faith of the Mexican people of those times. The measure of their faith was translated and transmitted into these structures, one stone at a time. I am sure there involved some church hierarchy and political posturing even in those days, however beauty and skill was reflected in every sanctuary we visited.

While we spent much of our time in various churches we also enjoyed the culture as we visited the open markets and shops, ate in local restaurants and walked the streets of Mexico City. Our journey also took us to Puebla, another city steeped in the ancient history and the lived faith of the Mexican people and the Pyramids of the Sun and of the Moon. We enjoyed a gondola ride along the canals of the Floating Gardens of Xochimilco.

Everywhere we looked, flower beds were filled with marigolds! We were told these flowers were for the Souls in Purgatory, planted in honor of the Mexican celebration of Dia de Los Muertes (The Day of the Dead). They would be replaced by poinsettias for Christmas. This detail spoke to me again of a faith reflected not only by individuals but also by a whole country.

The lively music as presented by a Mariachi band, singers and dancers was exhilarating and enjoyable. This music as well reflected a part the musical culture which evolved through the centuries. It is a music typically their own and enjoyed by people everywhere.

Our pilgrimage to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe (plus) provided us with days of fun-filled faith, hours of well-traveled faith and years to come of faith-filled memories.

A Continuation of Leadership 101 for CDA

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

In my first article for the Rising Dawn this year, I stated that as members of CDA we are all leaders, trying to make a difference in our own lives and in the lives of others. Therefore, we need to know and practice the necessary skills to make that difference.

This article is going to dwell on two skills: Communication and Motivation.



Communication is a vital component in our courts. Whether the purpose is to update members on events, to report on court happenings, or to listen to the concerns of members, effective communication is essential. To be successful, our courts should have strategies for communicating with members and with your community at large. How do we do this? We start off with the following questions:

- Do we have a newsletter? If we don't maybe we could start one. It could just be a brief message to all members, sent in an email or to those who do not use technology by regular email.
- Do we have a phone chain? Every member could be included in this form of communication.
- Do you post your meetings and activities in your parish bulletin? Contact your parish office in a timely manner. I am sure they will cooperate.

Starting with one or more of these suggestions will ensure that your court is on its way to effective communication.

Motivation is what explains why our members initiate, continue, or end a certain activity at a particular time. Motivational skills are commonly understood as forces acting within the member that creates a disposition that will help them to engage in a specific goal.

Motivation is a process that not only initiates, but guides, and maintains goal-oriented behaviors and activities. In everyday usage, the term "motivation" is frequently used to describe why a person does something. It is the driving force behind all our actions in our courts.

Motivated members are happy members, who in turn contribute to a better climate in our courts and in society.

Motivate your members by:

- Showing them respect, setting reasonable goals and limiting the amount of time or effort that you're asking for.
- Thanking and recognizing the importance of their work and valuing their feedback.
- Providing them with the tools they need to succeed.

When you plan your next activity or hold your next event, try to use the skills mentioned to motivate all members.

Stay tuned in future issues of the Rising Dawn for a continuation of this course for Leadership 101.

I will close with the words of **John C. Maxwell**:

"A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way."



NATIONAL NEWS MARCH FOR LIFE 2022

The **Annual March for Life** will be held Friday, January 21, 2022, in Washington, DC. The theme for this year is: **Equality Begins In The Womb**. There is a concert on the National Mall at 11 am, the rally begins at 12pm on the National Mall and at approximately 1pm the marchheads up Constitution Ave. to the Supreme Court and Capitol Buildings.

The Catholic Daughters and their families will meet at the National Museum of Natural History, the intersection of 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, in Washington, DC. We will join the March as the participants are walking by. We will have our Catholic Daughters of the Americas banner with us. This is a wonderful way to display our Unity as we March for justice for the unborn.

Pray & Play

TINA BIGELOW, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

I have to say that this summer has been one of the best that I can remember. Why? Because it was filled with Praying and Playing with Sisters in Christ.

I love the words that **Neale Donald Walsch** expressed in his book *Conversations with God* “*What you think, you create. What you create, you become. What you become, you express. What you express, you experience. What you experience, you are. What you are, you think. The circle is complete.*” **St Augustine** speaks the same wisdom with fewer words: “*Behold who you are, become what you receive!*”

When the State Convention was canceled, **Theresa Duran, Helene Shepard, and Connie Breindel** spent a weekend together with the rest of the Board uniting their thoughts to create a weekend of Pray & Play retreats in Huntington, Monroe, and Saranac Lake. Their creation



Fr. Reiman said Mass for us in Monroe

allowed us to connect and share our faith, as well as open our minds and hearts to what the Lord desires of us and how we can contribute our gifts and abilities **To Seek Justice, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly With God.**

The retreat started on a Friday night with a delicious dinner and a warm welcome from **State Regent Theresa Duran**. We then stepped into an ice breaker, led by Judy Sterling, that gave the whole group an opportunity to show their choices to the following questions 1. If you would you rather eat in a restaurant step to the right of the room or have it delivered, step to the left of the room; 2. shop online or in the store; 3. cake or pie, 4. live in the country or the city, etc. After dancing around from one side to the other and finding what we had in common with our new or old friends, we quieted down with a Facebook Live Rosary led by **Patti Drivanos**. We ended the evening with laughter, refreshments and a variety of card games, board games and Rummikub.

Saturday started with breakfast, followed by a group



Pray & Play retreatants with Fr. Ralph at Huntington

prayer service that usually brought tears to my eyes and a heart filled with gratitude for this moment of Unity and Charity. A prayer service that highlighted the benefits of membership in CDA.

Throughout the day, presentations were given by Connie on how to Seek Justice, Helene on how to Love Mercy, and Theresa on how to Walk Humbly with God. Each presenter expressed who they have become because of what they have received. As listeners, we received what we want to become through the example of their experiences. We enjoyed the rest of the day by sharing stories while eating delicious meals, playing cards, lawn and board games, celebrating mass, and sitting around the fire pit with some delicious drinks of the hour.

We sealed the retreat up on Sunday with a breakfast and a sending forth ceremony – a *Salt Covenant* to metaphorically signify an unbreakable bond, endurance, loyalty, strength, value, and purification to our Lord, Catholic Daughters and to each other.

A special thank you goes to **Joan Oram and Mary Impellizeri** who acted as chefs for the Monroe and Saranac Lake retreats, they did a delicious job!

In closing, I want to shout a loud Thank You to **Past National Regent Helene Shepard, State Regent Theresa Duran, and First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel** for creating this beautiful experience for all of us to become what we have received. We look forward to more of these in 2022.



Retreatants enjoyed the outdoors at Saranac Lake before Fr. Scott arrived for the day

AROUND THE STATE

Kids Helping Kids Can Tab Challenge

Together, the members of **Court Sts. Kateri and Andre #2663**, Morrisonville, and the Youth Ministry programs at St. Alexander's, Morrisonville, St. James, Cadyville, Assumption of Mary, Redford, St. Joseph's, Dannemora, and St. Augustine's, Peru, put together a **Kids Helping Kids Can Tab Challenge** to get local youth involved with helping children in need.

The Court challenged young people to save can tabs over the summer. The tabs were collected and weighed at the parish picnic. If they reached 2 lbs. 15 oz. (4,000 tabs), their name was placed into a drawing to win one of 4 bicycles donated by CDA members. Top weight in each grade category was also awarded a \$25 gift card.

American Legion Post #1619 then took the tabs to be scrapped and sent the donation to **Shriners Hospitals for Children**.

The approximate weight collected on the weigh-in day was 148 lbs. or approximately 167,000 can tabs! All the money raised goes directly to patient care and equipment needed for patient care at Shriners Hospitals For Children.

The young people were all excited to participate and learned a lesson in generosity and compassion.



Feeding Children

Members of **Court McLaughlin #422**, Saratoga Springs, donated \$650 to **Saratoga Nutrition Assistance for Children (SNACpack)** at St. Clement's parish. Pictured here is **Financial Secretary Jackie Hasbrouck** (on the left) and **Karey Trimmings**, the Founder and Coordinator of SNACpack. Feeding almost 150 children each week, the SNACpack program is funded entirely by local donations. The Court is honored to support the children of the community.

SOS! Send Other Stories

Please submit stories and photos by February 1st for our March issue. Submit to tduran@optonline.net to share your story with the state! Let us know about successful fundraisers, impactful events and community involvement.

Victory! Praise God!

EILEEN PETERSON, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are LIFE, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

In 2018 Mississippi passed a law protecting unborn children who are 15 weeks and older in their mothers' wombs. This LIFE-saving legislation was challenged and is going to be heard by the Supreme Court. **Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health** could be the landmark case that overturns the Roe v. Wade decision.

The oral arguments were heard on December 1, 2021, but the decision is expected in June 2022. These next 9 months are critical for all of us as Catholic Daughters. We are being invited with the Respect LIFE office of the Archdiocese of New York to fast and pray on the 22nd of each month in the hopes that on the 50th Anniversary (January 22, 2023), Roe v. Wade is finally overturned.

PRAYER FOR THE SUPREME COURT

*Holy Trinity, source of LIFE and Truth,
we entrust our nation to you.*

*We ask for mercy for the decades of legalized abortion
that has been permitted in our land.*

*We ask that the sacredness of every human LIFE be protected
and upheld both in law and in culture.*

*In a special way we commend to you
the Justices of the Supreme Court.*

Please grant them clarity, wisdom and right reason.

*Overthrow, at last, by your power,
the scourge of abortion in our land and
usher in a new era of protection for the unborn.*

*By the power of Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection
may Your perfect justice be established on earth. Amen*

More good news is a new social media platform being launched and promoted that supports our Catholic faith based beliefs. It is called Triumph of LIFE and there is a great video by Sister Dee Dee that explains it: <https://youtu.be/cx12L6t44HY>

Lastly, the two year old child at the center of a legal battle between her parents and the U.K.'s National Health Service died 90 minutes after medical personal removed her machines on Monday, October 18, 2021. **Alta Fixsler** brought so many people of different faiths and countries together to fight for her right to LIFE. It was devastating that the U.K. rejected the pleas from both the U.S. and Israel who wanted to provide care for this innocent girl.

The 2022 National Education Contests

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

I certainly hope everyone is enjoying the fall season and beginning to prepare for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Hopefully, this year's holidays will be more normal than last year's for most of us.

Now that most children have returned to the classroom, I am hopeful our **CDA Education Contest** will result in even more entries than last year.

As you know, we had five (5) winners at the National level last year and I would love for New York State to have even more National winners next year. This year's themes are **With God All Things are Possible** (Matthew 19:26) and **Where is God in my life when I am struggling?** As always, I will be looking forward to each and every entry I do receive.

The General Rules for the 2022 contests will be included in a mailing from National or you can check them out at **catholicdaughters.org**; scroll to the MEMBERS section; click on FORMS and then scroll down to CONTESTS. Please feel free to contact me (mewoll@aol.com or 845-297-5250) if you have any questions.

Deadline: NYS Court Deadline is February 28, 2022. Any entries postmarked after February 28 will (reluctantly) be disqualified. Send **only** your 1st Place Winner in each category, complete with **2022 Entry Form** to **Mary Westermann, 36 Monroe Drive Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-6019.**

Awards: Winning entries at the New York State level will be forwarded to the National Education Contest Chairperson, Darlene Moritz. Awards at the local level will be determined by the local Court. Winning entry awards at the state level are FIRST: \$50; SECOND: \$25; THIRD: \$15. National Prizes for each Division are: FIRST: \$100.00; SECOND: \$50.00; THIRD: \$25.00

Out of the Box

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

My children have been telling me for the past few years I need to go “Outside” of my box. Try new foods, new nail color (when the few times I do get a manicure), new adventures, different styles of many things, and I am always saying “next time”. I started thinking after all the Memorial Masses about everyone we have lost this past year, not only with our Catholic Daughters, but family, friends and Church members, and was wondering how many of them said “Next time”, and

there was no next time. When I was asked a few years ago about becoming a State Officer, I thought “Oh No, not me”. Why me? I thought about it, and then prayed to the Holy Spirit. Long story short, here I am!! By the way, my children told me this is not what they had in mind for me to go outside of my box, but they are very proud and they see how happy I am. As we get ready for the craziness of the Season, buying gifts, wrapping, decorating, baking, cooking, and hopefully celebrating with family the Birth of our Lord, remember to unwrap your “Next Time”, step out of your box.

New York State is always looking for volunteers, and you get to work with a lot of wonderful people! These past few months I was so lucky to meet many of you for the first time, Pray-n-Play weekends, Memorial Masses and I am so thankful I did step out of my box! Catholic Daughters are my many sisters who lift my spirits up, even when we are not together in person, I enjoy reading the newsletters, so I say Thank You!

My family and I wish for all Catholic Daughters, that this Holiday Season brings you Peace, Love, Good Health, and a Happy New Year!

Celebrating 2022 Memorial Masses Across NY



The State Officers and Past Regents' Chapters were grateful and blessed to be able to join in prayer and to honor the memory of the members that have passed away during the past two years. **Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski**, was celebrant in RVC; **Bishop Edward Scharfenberger** celebrated the Mass in Albany; **Bishop Salvatore Matano**, was celebrant in Rochester and **Fr. Christopher Argano** celebrated the Mass in the Archdiocese.

The Protocol of Inviting & Addressing Dignitaries

CHARILLA S. CONNER, STATE CHAIRMAN OF PROTOCOL

I know you've found yourself saying yes to a request then realizing "Holy Mother of God, help me with this, I have not much experience." Congratulations, you started correctly by praying for guidance from the Blessed Mother and the Holy Trinity. But how do you make sure you handle all details necessary? Look to the records of a past event (the Past Regents' *"How to Run the Bishop's Mass & Luncheon,"* your Court's *"Notes for the Annual Christmas Party"* or any other guidelines). Then, of course, use **The Tools of the Trade (TOTT)**, a fount of information and guidance. And, don't forget the internet! Google is my BFF for finding tips on etiquette & proper protocol procedure.

First of all is a letter of invitation to be sent to clergy, NYS State Board members, and any other guests or members of distinction. Be clear, succinct, and respectful in your invitation; be sure to provide all pertinent details, especially any request for the person to address the assembly. Emily Post has some great guidance. Your **TOTT** does too.

How to address dignitaries is very important. If, like me, you anticipate being nervous, practice and write it down if needed. Again, Emily Post is a good resource, but just Google your need and you'll have a plethora of information. **"Worthy State Regent"** and **"Reverend Father"** are the easy ones. We'll probably never get to address the Pope, but a Cardinal or Bishop is a strong probability. **"Your Eminence, Cardinal Dolan"** or **"Your Excellency, Bishop Matano"** are the correct ways. We don't want to embarrass them or ourselves. They are special people, learned people, which we have the opportunity to be able to interact with. We want to put them at ease & honor them. Prepare ahead of time.

The seating of the dais is generally pre-determined by the seating chart in your records or the **TOTT**. The hostess generally sits in the middle, with a dignitary on their left and right. Be sure that all invited guests have a reserved seat, whether it is at the dais or a table of honor. No Bishop, Sister, or State Officer should be wandering around looking for an open seat. If you invite a guest, you save them a seat. Yes, you'll probably be nervous but they have been to a number of these events so they will probably put you at ease. Smiling truly helps a great deal.

A few simple procedures to learn and follow will help you make your event a success. Congratulations, you are now getting better at following Protocol. If you make a mistake, pray and learn from it. I have.

Secretary's Notes

PATTI DRIVANOS, STATE SECRETARY

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." –Matthew 25:35

We will soon be turning the page on 2021. We have had a busy 3 months since our last issue of **The Rising Dawn**. We have been blessed to celebrated four 100th anniversaries: Ct. Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw, Ct. Johannine #672, Pauling, Ct. Rosemary #681, Middletown, and Ct. of the Assumption #690, Maybrook! We also instituted a new court: Court St. Raymond's #2773, Bronx.

The State Board has traveled the state to attend the Past Regents Chapters' Memorial Masses. It was a great opportunity to join with you and remember our deceased members. I recently saw the movie **"Purgatory"** which details the accounts of Fulla Horak, St. Faustina Kowalska and St. Padre Pio on what happens to a soul after death. It reinforced the lesson that we should not be so overwhelmed by our grief that we forget to pray often for these souls.

We have also completed our Fall Financial Reviews. This process allows us to see we have been good stewards of the financial resources we have been entrusted with and what we have expended on charity and good works. A huge thank you to all our **District Deputies** who have met with your courts to complete these financial reviews.

Invoices for fall dues will be showing up in your Regents mailboxes. Please do not change the number of members you are being assessed for. These numbers come from the National Office and are based on what has been reported to them. If there is a discrepancy, please check to make sure they have received your updates and when they were received. Remember: all checks should be made out to *Catholic Daughters of the Americas* and have two signatures.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

**Our faith can
move mountains.
–Matthew 7:20**



May the peace of Christ
be with you and
your families
this Christmas season
and throughout
the New Year.

Thank you for your
commitment to the
Catholic Daughters
of the Americas.

Fr. Ralph, Theresa, Connie,
Tina, Patti, & Judy

Rising Dawn Subscriptions

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

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

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

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

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

Important Dates

DEC 8TH	FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
DEC 12TH	FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
	BIRTHDAY OF STATE TREASURER JUDY STERLING
DEC 25TH	BIRTHDAY OF OUR SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST
DEC 31ST	NEW YEAR'S EVE
JAN 1ST	FEAST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY
JAN 6TH	FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY
JAN 17TH	DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
JAN 21ST	MARCH FOR LIFE, WASHINGTON, DC
FEB 1ST	MARCH RISING DAWN ARTICLES DUE
FEB 14TH	ST. VALENTINE'S DAY
FEB 21ST	PRESIDENT'S DAY
FEB 27TH	BIRTHDAY OF FIRST VICE STATE REGENT CONNIE BREINDEL
FEB 28TH	DEADLINE FOR THE EDUCATION CONTEST