



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

December 2010

My Dear Catholic Daughters:

As we begin the season of Advent, I am reminded of an old African proverb: **“Starvation does not kill when one has hope to eat sooner or later.”** The early Christians were a suffering people. On account of their belief in Christ, their own people, the Jews, disowned them. Because they would not worship the Roman deities, the Roman authorities accused them of heresy and treason and hunted them down, dead or alive. For the early Christians life was insecure and bereft of joy. And because they knew they were innocent, they longed for justice and vindication. Naturally, some of them would bow to social pressure and renounce the faith to save their neck. In the Letter of James, he urges them to be patient and courageous in the face of danger and suffering. The reason he gives them is: the coming of the Lord is near.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. (James 5:7-8)

James points to nature to illustrate his point that patience is necessary. The farmer suffers in sowing the seed. The same farmer will rejoice in harvesting the crop. Between these two moments, however, there is a long period of waiting. In ancient times, the period between sowing and harvesting is also a time of famine, since food was in short supply. Yet the farmer happily suffers this famine in the hope that harvest time will soon be there and food will be plentiful again.

Often, we find ourselves in a situation that demands patience. What does it mean to be patient? To be patient is to understand that my present suffering is meaningful and necessary. It is as meaningful and necessary as the suffering of the farmer waiting for the harvest. The justification for the suffering is in the good-times that will come in the future. The glory of the Lord does not come to us on credit, have it now and pay later. It comes to us prepaid. We pay for it in advance. Now is the time to pay for it, and our present suffering is the currency. People who do not understand this go about asking themselves, “Why Me? What have I done to deserve this?” Worse still they blame someone else for their suffering. James warns his fellow Christians to avoid the blame-game, to avoid trading complaints against one another as if their present suffering was something unnecessary. Believers who indulge in the blame-game betray their lack of faith in divine providence, and so make themselves liable to judgment.

Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! (James 5:9)

Aren't we grumpy at times or know grumpy people? James reminds such grumpy Christians that the Lord is very near, **“the Judge is standing at the doors.”** It is the Lord who will judge everyone, the sincere believer as well as the insincere, and give to everyone what they truly deserve. He reminds those Christians who grumble against one another as being the cause of their suffering to focus on the glory of the Lord which is coming and not on their worldly comfort and social status which is disappearing.

Is the message of James relevant to our church today? Yes, very much so. More than ever, we have many Christians who are grumbling against one another and blaming them for the ills that have befallen the church. Advent is a time to remind ourselves that the Judge is very near, at the very doors. He it is who will judge and give to everyone what they deserve. As servants of the Lord we have a natural tendency to separate the weeds from the wheat. But we must endeavor to heed the explicit injunction of the Master: **“Let both of them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” (Matthew 13:30)** Let both of them grow together! Shall we?

Have a Blessed and holy Advent season,
Father Ed Lamp
National Chaplain

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS



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Quarterly Newsletter
December 2010

Dear Catholic Daughters,

This is such a beautiful time of year. Living in Florida, I really look forward to the time when I can finally turn off the air conditioning, open the windows, and enjoy the fresh air, listen to the birds singing and sit on my back patio at breakfast time to watch the squirrels running on the fence and playing with each other. Sometimes I think we can learn from them. They seem to go through life having fun, running and playing, chasing each other as if it were a game of tag or hide-and-seek. Especially during the approaching holiday season, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the stresses of daily life. Stopping for a moment to go outside and appreciate the beauty of God's creation can be so therapeutic! As I write to you, I am doing just that, from an internet cafe in Assisi, Italy, where the sun is shining even though the day started out gloomy and cold. Wandering in this beautiful land of St. Francis, I am reminded not only of his love of nature, but also of his connection to our contemporary holiday traditions. St. Francis was the first to depict the Birth of Jesus using a live manger scene in the year 1223 in the city of Greccio Italy, a short distance from Assisi. As Advent begins and Christmas quickly approaches, I will take the time to carefully unpack one of my many mementoes of this great Saint -- the beautiful yet simple manger set I received from friends in Assisi many years ago. As we continue our work for Catholic Daughters during this approaching holiday season, may we be inspired by Francis' example to recognize and treasure the gift of life in the world around us, as well as the miracle of Eternal Life present in the manger.

CIRCLE OF LOVE REPORTING FORMS

The Circle of Love Forms have been sent to all STATE Regents

* State Regents; please place the names of your State Chairman on the forms before forwarding them to your Local Courts. These forms should be in the hands of your Local Court Regents by January 1st, 2011

Please note:

In **odd** years, the states recognize outstanding local court activity that has occurred since the last state convention.

In **even** years, National recognizes both state and local court projects that have occurred since the last National Convention.

Therefore, this spring will be the States' turn to do the recognitions. State Regents, please forward the necessary forms to your local courts and local courts **PLEASE** participate and follow the instructions provided by your State Regent. You should be proud of the work your court is doing and share it with other courts in your state.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE SECOND EDITION AND BYLAWS

Thank you to all those courts that have purchased this valuable tool. The Tools of the Trade is available in Book form, on CD or both. The CD is opened with any pdf program. Adobe Reader is a free download to open this cd. Duplicate pages may be printed from the CD for your Court's use.

NATIONAL SEMI-ANNUAL DUES

Have you received your invoice yet? Do we have your correct address and 2010-2012 Court Officer List. Attached to the National invoice is a separate listing showing the changes in membership made to your court for the past 6 months. This page should be given to the Financial Secretary to compare with the Additions, Deletions, Transfers, etc. that she sent to the National Office. Be sure to ask for an updated court roster periodically to keep up with changes. You can request this at cdaroster@aol.com.

2011 STATE CONVENTIONS

The mailing for 2011 State Convention Delegates was recently sent to all Local Court Regents. Please complete paperwork in a timely manner and send them to the proper State Officer.

38TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC

The Anniversary of Roe v Wade falls on a weekend, a time when lawmakers are typically away from Washington. Therefore this year the Rally and March will be held on Monday, January 24, 2011. We will once again march under our Catholic Daughters For Life Banner. The theme for this year is:

**"Thou Shalt Protect the Equal Right to Life of Each Innocent
Born and Preborn Human in Existence at Fertilization.
No Exception! No Compromise!"**

Please join us. Meet us at the rally in the park at 4th Street and Madison Drive.

NATIONAL JCDA SUNDAY

Just as we have a Sunday to celebrate our CDA Courts, the 3rd Sunday in February is saved as National JCDA Sunday. Please see the attached proclamation for your use. Support your JCDA Courts.

JCDA E-MAIL TREE

State Youth /JCDA Chairmen and JCDA Counselors join our **JCDA E-MAIL TREE**. Let's make this a method of sharing ideas, asking questions and connecting with JCDA Courts in other States. If you wish to participate send your e-mail address to Arline Rich, National Youth/JCDA Chairman at arline19@att.net.

CDA LECTURE

The annual CDA Lecture will be Sunday February 27, 2011 in the Hatzfeld Auditorium at Catholic University, Washington DC. The invited speaker, Anne M. Butler, is an author who is currently completing a book on the history of women religious in the West. Please see our website for further details.

NATIONAL PROJECTS AND CHARITIES:

In addition to fostering spiritual growth among our members we, as Catholic Daughters, donate to **5 National Projects** and **8 Charities** and strive *"to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow or sickness."* These remain empty words unless we select and support real issues.

The enclosed flyer identifies the **5 National Projects** that CDA has chosen to sponsor. Each court is asked to contribute a minimum of **\$15 per National Project**. In this way, we continue to put a smile on a child's face, a roof over a needy family's head, shelter and comfort for our Religious Sisters and Brothers in their golden years, counsel and support for troubled families and immediate help to victims of disasters. We are, in a very real way, responding to the words of Christ, **"Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers that you do unto me"**.

Please urge your courts to contribute to the **5 National Projects** and **8 National Charities** so we may continue to be *helping hands* to all.

Only checks made payable to **Catholic Daughters of Americas** will be accepted for this purpose. Please indicate the Project or Charity of your choice and the amount designated. If you have any questions concerning the National Projects or Charities please contact Helene Shepard.

LET US LIGHT OUR CANDLES FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Enclosed is a flier about the 2010-2012 membership contest. The reverse side contains the rules for the contest as well as information about the CASH prizes! State Regents; please encourage your courts to participate by offering your own membership contest within your state. Local Court Regents, get your members enthused and

ask for their help. Every member should be involved by inviting a friend. Spread the light of Jesus Christ by sharing your membership with others.

1903 SOCIETY AND GROWING TREE

Are you looking for a nice way to remember your Court's Anniversary, longtime member, favorite chaplain, etc.? See the enclosed flier for the 1903 Society which is a way of helping to maintain our National Headquarter Building in New York City. Our Growing Tree has a plaque for Memorial Donation in remembrance of a loved one or Honorary Donation to honor a person or event.

FUNDRAISER LABELS

Our annual fundraising campaign should have been received by all CDA members. This is a yearly program to help benefit all the charitable donations made in your name through the National Office. Any donation received from you is greatly appreciated.

EVANGELIZATION ORNAMENTS

We still have a supply of the CDA Ornaments available. Please see the enclosed order form and place your order today. They make great Christmas gifts, gifts for your officers, etc.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

All local courts will be receiving the annual invoice for Liability Insurance coverage in April. This is coverage that your Diocese, Parish or Hall requires as well. Please be sure to file this certificate in a permanent Court file for future reference.

PERSONAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS

We still use RKI Insurance for any personal insurance protection. Available plans are Group Cancer Expense, Outreach Term Life, Cash Value Permanent Life, Medicare Supplement, Personal Travel Accident, Emergency Outpatient Expense and Share-Care Group Hospital Indemnity. If anyone is interested in learning more, please contact RKI at 1-800-336-3316.

SHARE MAGAZINE

Are your Chaplains, State Chaplains and Bishops receiving SHARE Magazine? Does your local library receive copies of SHARE? If not, why not sign them up today? What better way to publicize our wonderful organization. Please refer to the subscription form enclosed.

NEW COURTS

Congratulations to the following new Courts who have been chartered since our last national newsletter. Congratulatory messages may be sent to the new Regents.

Deborah Jenkins, Regent
Court St. Mary Magdalene of the Heart #2636
4163 Crooked Stick Lane
Corona, CA 92883

Teresa M. Marquez
Court Our Lady of Grace #2637
443 E. Sierra Avenue
Reedley, CA 93654

Robyn Hoffmann, Regent
Court Sts. Anne and Joachim #2628
4 Fremont Drive S
Fargo, ND 58103

Madeline S. Helmer, Regent
Court Our Lady of Chautauqua #2639
136 Seymour Street
Fredonia, NY 14063

SALE OF ARTICLES

Make sure your Financial Secretary has the most up to date listing of articles available from the National Office. Besides membership jewelry and shirts, there are many items your members may enjoy or you may wish to use for court celebrations or gifts. See the enclosed listing. There are many changes as well. We no longer have the

Financial Secretary Cash Book or Ledger Book. Please see the enclosed page with samples of books to purchase at a nearby Staples, Wal-mart, Target, etc. as a replacement to the old syle books.

New Item: Appreciation Card – use this card to send to Religious in your Parish or Court to thank them for all they do for CDA. Inside sentiment starts with “In gratitude for your faithful service...”. Cards are free, you pay the postage, then send the enrollment card back to CDA with your donation.

PRAYERS NEEDED

Please pray for the following who have recently passed away. Cards may be sent to the family member listed.

Past National Director Vivian Duda – mother to Irene Duda 6931 SW Montauk Circle,
Lake Oswego, NY 97035

Lillian Broussard – mother to Past National Director Vickie Broussard Melanson, 18082 DeWolf Rd,
Iowa, LA 70647

William J. Coates – husband of Past National Director Lucretia Coates, 748 Shore Dr, Joppa, MD 21085

Darrin Dalton – son of Carol Dalton, Membership Department at the National Office, 4053 61st Street,
Woodside, NY 11377

Please pray for a speedy recovery for:

National Director Delma Araiza, back surgery, 3510 E. 25th Street, Tucson, AZ 85713

Maryland State Regent, Mary Byrd, 6712 Fox Meadow Dr, Gwynn Park, MD 21207

OPERATION MORNING STAR

Congratulations to Margaret Sitte who was elected to the North Dakota State Senate. She will be taking a leave of absence from National Legislatiove Chairman. Mary Ann Rowe will serve at the interim National Legislative Chairman. Please contact Mary Ann at 4638 31st Road South, Arlington, VA 22206 703-671-1277 martardel@aol.com. Welcome Mary Ann!

ADDRESS CHANGE

Please change the email address for the Idaho State Regent, Mary K Ruseel to maryk@russellminers.com

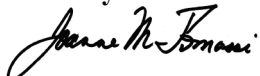
NATIONAL DIRECTORY

Enclosed is the updated listing of the 2010-2012 National Board, the National Chairmen and their assignments. Please make the appropriate copies of this for your officers and chairmen.

As you move forward into 2011, reach out to the women of your parish and in your community. Offer a personal invitation to become of member of your court and share in the joy of being a Catholic Daughter and the rewards received through giving. Catholic Daughters has so many facets and avenues of involvement. Every new member is a new light and new life for your court. They bring us growth and ideas which often develop into new avenues of involvement and new blessings.

May the New Year bring you many blessings and may you share them with many new members.

In Unity and Charity,



**Joanne Tomassi
National Regent**

Enclosures:

- JCDA Proclamation
- National Projects List
- Membership Contest
- 1903 Society
- The Growing Tree
- Evangelization Ornaments
- SHARE Subscription
- Sale of Articles Price List
- Financial Secretary Book Update
- National Board Directory
- Operation Morningstar
- Morality in Media