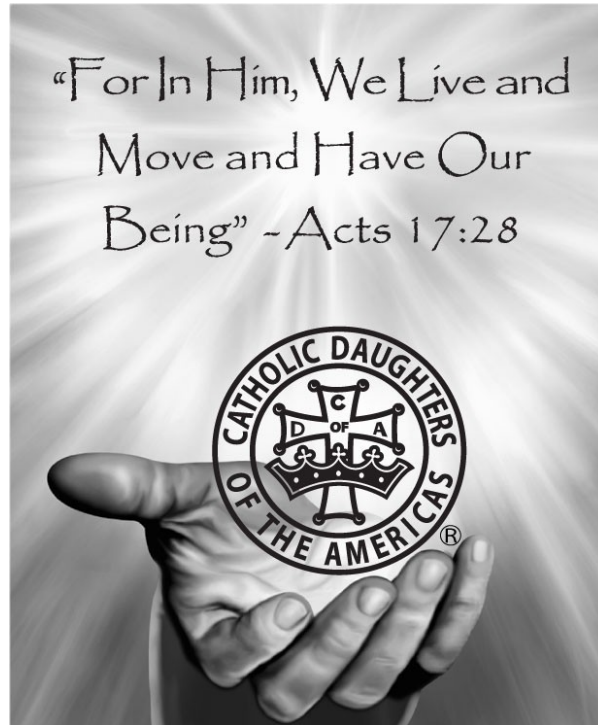


REPORTS
PRESENTED AT THE



53rd Biennial National Convention
Adam's Mark Hotel
Buffalo, New York
July 14 – 18, 2010

Please share all this information with your State and Local Court Chairmen

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
QUALITY OF LIFE REPORT
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

**Lois M. Nelson, National Quality of Life Chairman
National Director**

“Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.” John Henry Newman

During these past two years, we’ve seen and may have personally experienced ‘quality of life’ diminished because of loss of job, home, health or felt threatened by disaster--natural or man-made. Right now, we have been mesmerized at the challenges of capping an oil well in the Gulf of Mexico where the environment and ‘quality of life’ for thousands of individuals will be impacted for another generation. We know of the dedication of our service men and women all over the world and particularly the Middle East as we try to guarantee a ‘quality of life’ for the citizens of the area.

Congratulations to many of you and your courts for recognizing a need and responding whether for one person, a family, a parish or neighborhood. You have accumulated clothing, food and household items; worked to build and repair homes and packed boxes of medical items, school supplies, cookies and garden produce. You have spent time with school kids, and mentored teens, and young mothers. You have recognized and shared your hearts and resources with the homeless, addicted and runaways.

Many of you have also collaborated with other organizations making you even stronger and more resourceful in your response to others’ needs. Who hasn’t yet partnered with your local Knights Council, other women’s groups or school organizations? Working, playing and praying together makes us all stronger. Who may you reach out to this year for the benefit of others?

These last four years, as your National Quality of Life Chair, I’ve encouraged you to focus on three areas. Why? As an organization of enthusiastic, spirit-filled, resourceful women, we can affect our surroundings and all those that we come in contact with in our day. We are the heart of our homes, nurturer to many, and both learner and teacher on a wide variety of issues. Many meeting programs from your parish, city or region on these topics can expand your knowledge and even attract potential members.

As a reminder, these areas are: **1) Protection of our earth by participating (or implementing) recycling programs in your home, parish, and school & study materials on our earth’s environment and global warming.** “Green” has a new meaning since we started this discussion!

2) Examine your lifestyle on the effects of heart disease and obesity. Now, First Lady Michelle Obama is planting a garden at the White House and using those fresh fruits and vegetables. She has also spoken out on the need of diet and exercise for all of us, but particularly

on decreasing childhood obesity. Thanks to the officers and members in Texas of initiating a walk as part of their state convention. How many of you were out the door at 6:00 a.m. this week to enjoy the fresh air and get your muscles warmed up, your blood pumping and brain ready to absorb this wonderful convention? Health Care has become a major topic of discussion nationwide. As women, we need to take better care of ourselves, our families and friends. Then, in feeling better, we can help so many others. A great resource is the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services website: www.womenshealth.gov/ Great reading! Many ideas to put into practice.

3) Guarding against personal identify theft. Billions of dollars have been stolen from individuals. Women are vulnerable.

Please go back to issues of SHARE magazine from 2007 and 2008 for more information and resources about all of these areas.

Continue your wonderful work. Consider partnering with another organization. Share your talents and treasury, so, like Newman's opening prayer above, we may all enjoy ...peace at last. Blessings in your efforts.

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
YOUTH REPORT
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

**Theresa Kocer, National Youth/JCDA Chairman
National Secretary / Treasurer**

It is so amazing to me how fast these last two years have flown by. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for this opportunity to serve as the National Youth /JCDA Chairman. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this section of our Circle of Love program.

I am even more impressed with all of you and what you are doing with the Youth and JCDA in your states. It is humbling to me to see the dedication you all have towards the youth and the multitude of activities, projects, and events that you support and sponsor.

As we know, the youth are the future leaders of our communities, churches, and CDA courts. It is very important that we show them through our support that we care about their issues, their joys, their sorrows and their triumphs. We, as women, are the nurturers, and we, as Catholic Daughters, are the builders. I look forward to your continued support of the Youth/JCDA in your parishes and communities. Continue to bring forth the innovative programs and projects that will continue to keep the youth of our parishes motivated and enthused about their Catholic Faith.

We receive many inquiries through the National Office for information about Junior Catholic Daughters. With the JCDA program under the umbrella of the Circle of Love Youth program, Junior Catholic Daughters do get “buried” at times. I encourage you to continue to keep this program in your courts and your states. Even though the youth in its entirety are important to us, the JCDA program enhances supports and encourages the young women ages 6-18 to learn about the Catholic Daughters and everything that our organization offers. We must continue to foster these young women. We must show them that their involvement in JCDA can be fun and exciting, as well as a learning opportunity to become stronger in their Catholic Faith.

The National Office continues to support the JCDA program through the annual JCDA Scholarship. This \$1,000 scholarship is given to a JCDA member attending freshman year of college in the fall. Although the applications are few, they all stand out in their JCDA involvement, and their involvement in the church, community and school. They are all well rounded young ladies and the judging is always very difficult.

The National Office also supports the youth by offering two \$500 scholarships. One scholarship is awarded to an 8th grader going into freshman year at a Catholic High School and one scholarship is awarded to an 8th grader going into freshman year at a Public or Private High School. I am always amazed at the involvement that these young adults have in their communities, church and school. It is so refreshing to know that there are many young adults who can be active and involved and find time to apply for a scholarship, attend a church camp, or babysit for their siblings. They, too, can do it all and have it all.

The scholarship applications started coming a little late this year. This was partly due to the fact that from the time the applications came out and the due date, I moved. For some reason, some of the applications were forwarded to my new address and some were sent back. Due to this, I did not disqualify any application for being late. However, there were other reasons for an application to be disqualified.

In both the JCDA and the Youth scholarship applications we ask for three letters of recommendation. The letters should be from a pastor or religious, from a school or religion teacher and from a non-relative. We continue to receive applications without these required documents. Therefore, they are disqualified.

I want to stress that it is very important that all instructions are followed. I believe that a student's character is in question if they do not follow the directions and submit the required documents as requested.

Due to some of the reasons for disqualification, I am proposing a revised application for next year that I hope will alleviate these situations. It is very disheartening for me to have to disqualify an application because they do not submit the required documents.

If anyone ever has any questions or concerns regarding the Youth/JCDA Circle of Love program, please contact the National Office. We are always open to suggestions, thoughts and ideas. We are all a part of this organization and should all feel that we are heard.

God Bless you for your guidance with the Youth/JCDA of our communities. Without you, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas would be unable to function as an organization.

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
LEGISLATION REPORT
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

Margaret Sitte, National Legislative Chairman

It has been one year since Helen Johnson resigned as National Legislative Chair and recommended me for the job. What a delight it has been to get to know all of you and to serve you in this capacity! So many societal issues are of concern to us as Catholic women. My job is to help you get informed, get organized, and get motivated to act.

The major topic covered in email alerts this year has been health care reform. The legislation includes taxpayer funding for abortion and lacks conscience protection for healthcare workers. These two areas will bring devastating blows to the Catholic community and to the soul of this nation. Yet, we have seen people mobilize themselves to get involved in the legislative process as never before. Always remember, it is our duty to speak up for truth and justice in our society.

Get informed:

Sign up for daily and weekly email alerts from a wide range of organizations. Read Catholic and Christian publications and talk to others about what you learn.

Create a support network:

Create email lists and groups of friends to share the information. Then, network with other Catholic and Christian organizations in your state and local area. We need each other.

Communicate briefly and clearly:

When you send out information or make phone calls in telephone trees, reduce the central message to a simple kernel of information. People respond better to easily digestible bites.

Show up and get involved:

The victory belongs to those willing to step into the arena, whether it is meeting legislators at the state capitol, writing emails or letters, making calls or distributing literature.

Reminder: Because of tax-exempt status, Catholic Daughters of the Americas cannot and does not endorse or support any political party or political candidate at federal, state or local levels, including judicial nominees. Since our organization does take stands on issues, it is appropriate to research past votes on issues and to inform members of how elected officials have voted.

Summary of 2009-2010 National Legislative Committee Activities

Legislative alerts to members

7/1/09 CDA Alert: Restore ban on public funding of abortion in D.C.
7/18/09 Urgent CDA Alert: Health Care Reform bill
7/29/09 CDA Urgent Alert: Health Care Reform action Thurs 7/30
8/24/09 Action Alert: Oppose any Health Care Reform bill that expands abortion
10/13/09 Action Alert: Oppose Health Care Reform unless abortion is removed

- 12/10/09 Action Alert: Oppose Health Care Reform
2/16/10 Action Alert: Oppose Health Care Reform again
5/26/10 Action Alert: Support bill to remedy abortion, conscience protection in health care

Operation Morningstar overview

September '09 Federal Health Care Legislation

Catholic Teaching: "No Catholic can responsibly take a 'pro-choice' stand...

Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Public funding of abortion in D.C.

What is the power of one woman?

White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) and bulletin insert

The level of any civilization is its womanhood

December '09 US Bishops' advertising targets health care reform

Susan G. Komen: A wolf in pink clothing

40 Days for Life saves 2,000 babies from abortion

Oppose Congress ending Mexico City Policy

Catholic Daughters once again March for Life

Gardasil vaccine more dangerous than cancer

March '10 Economic cost of abortion: 38.5 trillion in lost GDP

John Cardinal O'Connor spoke boldly for life

3-D sonograms reveal details of early development

Traditional marriage goes on trial in California

Seeing the results of the Mexico City Policy

Bishop says Catholics can't support abortion

March for Life inspires pro-life rededication

A reminder: Political year guidelines

June '10 Health care: Taxpayer money will pay for abortions

Prayer for Pope Benedict XVI

Pro-aborts aging; pro-lifers young and zealous

Gendercide: media takes note of the killing of girls

CEDAW would radically transform American law

A reminder: Political year guidelines

Share articles

Fall 2009 Taking action on what we believe

Winter 2009 Keep It Local: How Much Government Is Too Much?

Spring 2010 Before you vote: know your candidate

Summer 2010 The little pill that changed the world

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
EDUCATION REPORT
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

**Letty M. Calvetti, Education Chairman
National Director**

“Go light your candle, light up the world!”

It was with great joy that I was again assigned the chairmanship of the Education facet of our Circle of Love program for 2008-2010 by our Worthy National Regent Libby Ramirez. Each spring has been a time of expectation and it is somewhat awesome to receive the works of your young students and the adult members who choose to enter.

During the past two years, over **900** entries have been received from thirty-three states that sponsor the **Education Contest**. The categories of art, poetry, music, essays, computer art and photography were the categories this year, with posters no longer a part of the contest. The poetry and art categories have been most popular. Most of the entries are well done and adhere to the guidelines. Chairmen, please give your participants every chance to compete; their work shows effort and thought and is one way to help them show self expression and grow spiritually. Examples of how you might reward them are: host a tea and present the awards, present the awards at Mass or at a Communion Breakfast your court might be sponsoring. Be sure to invite their parents and grandparents, as this might increase your pool of potential members. One court gives recognition to all entrants as ‘winners’ to help them develop and share their talents.

I have taken pictures this year of the art, computer art and photography entries and they will be on display in the hall with the winners of each category. Take time to visit and see what your state and local courts might do if not involved in sponsoring the contest each year.

Education is an area that gives each member a part in spreading information about the Catholic Daughters or may encourage one to be a mentor to a new member. You can be the example! Share your enthusiasm and knowledge of the Catholic Daughters. Courts reported on having speakers on social issues, church liturgies, and world activities of concern to their members. Many states are planning workshops this year; consider opening the workshops to all interested members as well as the newly elected officers. Share your leadership talents, instill in them the opportunity to share their God-given talents. Plant some seeds, nurture them and watch them grow. Sowing seeds of interest takes a little time but the dividends are worth it.

Have you ever offered to read to students at the schools in your area? How about pamphlets created to highlight the activities of your local court and handed out with your church bulletin (with pastor’s permission of course). Take action, spread the word and help us help others in *Unity and Charity*.

It is so important to constantly educate your members on the changes in the By-Laws of our Order; take ten minutes at each meeting to cover one area. Since every member doesn’t attend every meeting, send a newsletter. Be creative, get to the point, use visual images when possible and give them necessary court information. Ask for the e-mail address of each and save postage expense. Learn to use your availability to new technologies. The National website is www.catholicdaughters.org and many of your states now have their own websites. There is so much helpful information available on these websites, so take time to visit them.

Just over half of the states sent reports on their state and local activities in Education. They gave examples of various projects that help them reach out to the less fortunate in their areas and to bring awareness of the Catholic Daughters.

A court sponsored a Make a Difference Day with members of the confirmation class gaining volunteer hours by helping collect two tons of clothing for a Second Time Around Thrift Shop. Another had speakers come to meetings, members knowledgeable in a specific topic or had representatives from community programs. As they state, 'education does not stop at graduation or retirement but goes on forever'.

Another court invited the youth to participate in a Lady of Fatima Rosary at the Public Square, instructing them on how to say the rosary and giving pictures of Mary as she appeared to the children at Fatima. While several other courts teach CCD classes and help in the religious education programs of their parishes, others read to children in their school libraries.

Many courts give scholarships to eighth graders and high school graduates entering a school of higher education, be it trade school or college. Money to support these activities is earned through bake sales, raffles, card parties and calendars with numbers drawn on the State lottery. One court donated money to five religious education programs within their area.

One chose to educate the broader community about the CDA program by working with a non-profit organization they had not worked with before. They raised money to support the efforts of a children's home and held a baby shower to give much needed items to the home for their young mothers' program.

As National Director, I attended the Catholic Daughter **lectures** each spring at Catholic University in Washington, DC, on Catholic history in the United States. Another way we help educate is by bringing awareness to the pro-life issue and our participation in the March-for-Life. Some states and areas hold their own march; others join us in Washington, DC.

The **Father Bachmann Graduate Scholarship** falls under the Education area and last year brought in over **500** applications, while only two scholarships are given. It was quite a daunting task to narrow it to two winners. The rules and policies were changed for this year with the requirement that they be Catholic and a member of or relative of a current Catholic Daughter member. The number of applicants for 2010 was forty-five and one \$3000.00 and one \$1000.00 winner will be announced at this convention. (A handout listing both Education Contest winners and Scholarship recipients will be distributed after they are announced.)

I wish to thank the State Regents and State Chairmen for their cooperation in sending the reports and Education Contest materials to me in a timely fashion. For the States who did not report happenings in this area, start making notes now so you will be ready to report next year. Each of you does outstanding works, so let others hear about them. Let your light shine!

As a part of education, and by being a mentor, you help shorten the learning curve for another and reinforce your knowledge of the Catholic Daughters. You can communicate with others one-to-one or you can develop your skills and speak at your court meeting on an area of interest to your members. In seeking to educate, be open to changes and seek new ideas. Give yourself the gift of knowledge about the Catholic Daughters; it is portable, and it will help you to disseminate the message of the Catholic Daughters in an effective manner to others.

As Catholics, and as Catholic Daughters, we are called to witness, worship and serve. As someone once said, we are women of wonder and, as such, we have reached out to many through the past one-hundred and seven years. May you gain much from this convention and go back energized and enthused to bring renewed vitality to your court and your members in seeking to continue our works of "Unity and Charity".

Remember our theme, "*In Him we live and move and have our being...*" Acts 27:18

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT REPORT
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

**Evelyn Saxton, Spiritual Enhancement Chairman
National Director**

As Jesus says in John 14:12: “Whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, and will perform even greater works.” We are called to a deeper faith; called to do even MORE than Jesus did on earth, and called to increase the use of our talents.

The Catholic Daughter Spiritual Enhancement Program involves our many and varied responses to the call of Jesus to “do greater works”. Over the past two years as Spiritual Enhancement Chairman, I have been privileged to witness the extensive spirituality of members and the enormous acts of charity they perform. Newsletters from Courts across the country are filled with news of retreats, prayer services, May Crownings, rosaries, memorials, visiting state hospitals, visiting the homebound and providing assistance to children in need. There’s news of supporting the mentally and physically handicapped; supporting unwed pregnant mothers and the anti-abortion cause; encouraging seminarians; honoring and assisting the religious; providing religious programs for our youth and our Church communities. All of these and so many more, exhibit the love and generosity our Lord asks of us, and our Catholic Daughters respond.

Since the National Convention in Albuquerque in 2008, the Spiritual Enhancement section of the Circle of Love has been reviewed, parts updated and re-written and approved by the Executive Board for inclusion in the new edition of the Tools of the Trade. An outline is provided for use by members in planning possible activities for their Courts. Included also are resources for music, books and websites.

Also placed in the new “Tools” is a completely new prayer booklet that includes not only prayers for various feasts and occasions, but also prayer services that might be useful when preparing for a special event or Catholic Daughter activity. It was very gratifying to see the number of members from different states that sent in prayers or services to be included in the booklet. Hopefully it will be a blessing to those who choose to use it.

The Catholic Daughter website (www.catholicdaughters.org) has been such a great tool for those who have Internet access. In “Programs” is listed the Circle of Love and its categories. Under “Spiritual Enhancement”, there are several prayers available for members to use, that have been added or changed to coordinate with the seasons. I’m very grateful to Shirley Seyfried and her son, Daniel, for their excellent website management and offering to help with the addition of new prayers, etc.

Over the past several months, a new aspect of Spiritual Enhancement has been explored. In cooperation with Peggy Eastman, Editor of the SHARE magazine, I was able to write a review of the movie “Mary of Nazareth” and share it with the CDA members in the Summer issue of SHARE. It is my hope that the movie review section would continue with the next National

Spiritual Enhancement Chairman, as many of our Courts watch religious movies as a fun and fellowship activity.

One of the responsibilities included as National Chair for Spiritual Enhancement is to prepare prayers or prayer services to begin both days of the National Board Meetings. It has truly been an honor to present those to the Board as we shared laughs, tears, music and the word of God. Also part of the responsibility is preparing prayer services for the State Officer's Workshop in Belleville, Illinois, at the Shrine to Our Lady of the Snows. As always, it was a pleasure to unite in prayer with CDA sisters.

The Circle of Love contest for the Spiritual Enhancement category concluded April 1, and there were an amazing 27 entries from State Courts, Local Courts and two Territorial Courts. Unfortunately, several were received past the deadline and had to be disqualified, but it was obvious that the spiritual activities of all the Courts and individual members are quite outstanding. The works of charity that our Lord has asked us to perform, are definitely being carried out with much enthusiasm.

As my term as Spiritual Enhancement National Chairman is at its end, I must thank our National Regent, Libby Ramirez, for being so supportive of the activities upon which we embarked. It was a sincere honor to serve with such a dedicated, hard-working and cohesive Board. Indeed, we can all imagine doing even greater works as Jesus asks, and we have His promise that we can, if we but believe enough. Great faith leads to great works, and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas are certainly great women with great faith, for "In Him We Live and Move and Have Our Being".

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
LEADERSHIP REPORT
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

**Helene Shepard, Leadership Chairman
National Director**

My experience as the chair of the Leadership Committee has been personally rewarding. As a longtime member of CDA at various levels, I was delighted to learn of new and different programs taking place throughout the country. I was impressed by the imagination and creativity of the various courts. I received the Circle of Love leadership reports from 60% of the State Courts and 20% of the Territorial Courts.

It was obvious from the reports submitted that the officers are utilizing leadership skills. I witnessed many other interesting activities when visiting various courts, but they were not submitted. Therefore, those courts could not be recognized or be included in this report.

There are many wonderful projects described by local courts that could be used as models by others courts. Some of the outstanding activities that took place during this two-year period include the following ideas:

- Taking the leadership role in fundraising activities.
- Restructuring the committees in the courts around the Circle of Love Program.
- Family Summer Dinner Events.
- Making and distributing “Love Kits” to members.
- Church Ministry Fairs were held.
- CDA Revamp – Meeting of all Circle of Love Chairmen.
- Organizing JCDA to network with other groups.
- Initiating a court newsletter.
- Postcard campaigns.
- Getting Acquainted Teas.
- Obtaining a grant for funds needed for the people in Haiti.
- Hosting a State Convention.
- Organizing the recitation of the Rosary.
- Many courts shared their Church activities in which the local court members participate.

It was difficult to cite only three awards for leadership. Each and every court that participated in the Circle of Love Program should be recognized and receive an award for exercising their leadership skills. To each court that submitted a Circle of Love report, I send my heartfelt thanks.

I would hope that each Catholic Daughter would take home the message that they are leaders in their courts. We refer to Christ as the perfect leader. Therefore, let us turn to Him to be our guide.

The following are highlights from articles that I have written in SHARE and in National, State and Local newsletters and also from various talks I have given to courts on leadership.

Leadership has been defined as “the ability to inspire willing action”; a leader is one to whom the members will listen and give their confidence and support. Leaders must have certain traits and skills. These skills can be learned and the traits developed.

Focus on the key qualities of leadership

Enthusiasm is the key to the future. It is the outward reflection of an inner glow. It is a feeling of excitement about the goal and the group’s ability to accomplish it. Enthusiasm comes from a Greek word, which originally meant a person possessed by a God. Without enthusiasm all else becomes powerless. Enthusiasm is the energy, the fuel, and the blazing fire that brings about a successful result. A famous writer once said that nothing ever gets done without enthusiasm. If you want to accomplish great things, if you want to realize great goals, if you want to live a great life, you absolutely must possess enthusiasm for everything you do.

How do we develop the power of enthusiasm?

There are three critical steps:

Interest:

First you must have a strong interest or curiosity in knowing about a specific subject. If you want to be enthusiastic with people you must be interested in them. If you want to be enthusiastic about CDA you must be interested in it. You must want to know everything there is to know about CDA. You must want to learn, learn, learn.

Knowledge:

Many people are interested in CDA and its programs and mission but until they learn about it, they will not be able to share the enthusiasm about it. As their knowledge of CDA grows so does their enthusiasm. This gives birth to the next phase, which is belief.

Belief:

At this step your knowledge is transformed from simple academic information and facts to emotional commitment. This is where enthusiasm is created. It is not enough to know everything about a subject but you have to believe in it. Belief generates commitment, which in turn fosters enthusiasm. As leaders in the Catholic Daughters we have the responsibility to create enthusiasm among our members. It is only then that we can fulfill our dreams and truly accomplish our mission.

***Enthusiasm is...
Faith in action; nothing great can be achieved without
it. It is the sustaining power of all great leaders!***

**CIRCLE OF LOVE
NATIONAL PROJECTS
2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY**

**Theresa Kocer, National Projects Chairman
National Secretary / Treasurer**

I would like to first take this time to thank you for this opportunity to serve as the National Projects' Chairman. It has been a pleasure to see, through your monetary donations, how generous you all are.

We have all seen many changes in our world in the last two years and these changes affect our ability to give, especially on a monetary level. These changes also affect where the greatest need is.

That is one reason why we chose to make some changes in our National Projects a few years ago. Our five National Projects are: The Disaster Relief Fund, Smile Train, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Cross Family Rosary and SOAR! We also have nine additional National Charities that we support through our donations.

The Disaster Relief Fund has allowed the National Office to help many of our own Catholic Daughters who have been affected by natural disasters. The donations are given to the Diocese of the area and distributed at their discretion.

Smile Train, which we began partnering with in 2006, helps millions of children begin to live a normal life with a new smile after their cleft palate repair. For every \$250 that is donated by you, a surgery is performed. Just imagine all of those beautiful smiles looking back at you. What a picture that makes in my mind!

The Habitat for Humanity project has been a part of us since 1995. For fifteen years we have donated money and worked side by side with each other pounding the nails, painting the walls and doing whatever needed to be done to erect those homes.

The Holy Cross Family Rosary which we have supported since 1977 continues to be the foundation of our prayer life. Our patroness, the Blessed Mother, Mary, signifies our devout, faithful prayer life. The rosary is a symbol of our Catholic Faith and will continue to be the visible support for this project.

SOAR! was founded in 1986 with \$25,000 seed money from the Catholic Daughters. This program allows the Catholic Daughters to support the aging members of Catholic religious congregations.

The National Office asks that each court donate \$15 to each of the five National Projects. If all 1259 courts would make this annual donation, we could have approximately \$18,885 to donate to each of our projects each year. Can you imagine how these organizations could be helped with this amount of money?

I am overwhelmed with your generosity not only in normal times but especially in times of need. The way you all responded to the National Office's call for money for the Disaster Relief Fund for Haiti was amazing! I have never been more proud to be a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

You have stood up to our motto of Unity and Charity in a way that is phenomenal. Your desire to help others is the foundation of our motto and our organization.

God Bless you all for your participation in these projects and charities and for your monetary donations that support them. We are all better because of it.

1NATIONAL CHARITIES ENDORSED BY NATIONAL 2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

**Lorayne K. Zimmerman, National Charities Chairman
National Director**

In 2007, the “*Circle of Love*” program was updated to provide for projects and issues current in society at the time. I was appointed to be chairman of the National Charities. I enjoyed the challenge and learning more about these Charities. Courts can pick and choose to donate and support any or all of these Charities in the amount they see fit. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this position.

American College of Louvain – Located in Belgium, this institution is for the preparation of priests according to the teachings and directives of the Roman Catholic Church. It is operated and overseen by the Bishops of the United States (USCCB). They offer a house of studies and the opportunity to live in Christian community to priests and religious pursuing higher degrees in theology, philosophy and canon law.

Apostleship of the Sea – This charity provides services (spiritual, physical, and psychological) to foreign seamen at port locations. It also supports a chaplain education program. The publication *Catholic Maritime News* is published 12 times a year which gives much information on this charity.

Catholic Relief Services – CRS assists impoverished and disadvantaged people overseas (100 countries on five continents) to promote human life and the dignity of the human person regardless of their race, religion or ethnicity. Within the United States, CRS engages Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and suffering of the world.

Covenant House – Branches, which are located in many cities, rescue runaway teens, mostly troubled girls who have resorted to becoming prostitutes, drug addicts and unmarried mothers.

Mother Theresa – Donations are given to Mother Teresa’s order –Missionaries of Charity – to continue the work to which she devoted her life.

Morality in Media – MIM was established in New York City in 1962 to combat pornography. Now national in scope, MIM works to inform citizens and public officials about the harm of pornography and about what they can do through law to protect their communities and children. It also works to maintain standards of decency on TV and in other media.

North American College – The Pontifical North American College is home to roughly 160 Roman Catholic Seminarians, as well as numerous faculty members and graduate students, from across the United States, Canada and Australia. A three-month residential sabbatical program for English-speaking priests is also located on the college premises.

Tutwiler Clinic – This clinic helps the poorest of the poor in the Bayou country. It is under the direction of Sister-Doctor Anne Brooks and is run totally through donations to bring medical help to those who do not have the ability to seek or pay for services. There is an active quilting group that goes to craft shows to sell their items for extra money to help the clinic. Tutwiler Clinic is always happy to receive medical supplies, over-the-counter medication, quilting materials, and sewing supplies.

Project Handclasp – Catholic Daughters of the Americas began working with Project Handclasp in 1967 via the US Navy's People-to-People Charitable Projects. Donated materials are distributed by volunteer sailors and marines from onboard Navy ships. They transfer the material from the ships and personally deliver them to the ultimate recipients. Some items useful to Project Handclasp are friendship bags, school and sewing supplies, toys, clothing and new soap. Monetary donations are always welcome and are normally applied toward the purchase of new treadle sewing machines that cost \$150. Commander Paul Brown is appreciative of all CDA does for Project Handclasp and suggests donations coming from outside California be concentrated in gifts of money or lightweight articles which can be inexpensively shipped.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Helen C. Arndorfer, National Membership Chairman
National Director

Every Catholic Daughter member should assist her court with membership goals, by “sharing our story”. To encourage your participation over the past two years, the National CDA has had a contest for every local court, state court, and territorial court to increase their membership by 5% or more. The contest was based on the membership of April 2008, and closed in March 31, 2010. The courts reaching this goal will be honored at the National Convention, in Buffalo, NY. The local courts, state courts, and territorial courts with the highest percent increase in membership will receive an award.

Catholic Daughters must increase membership so that we can carry out our missionary work. We must retain our current members, and keep ALL MEMBERS, both current and new, involved in our programs and activities. “To play the game we must be in the field, and to win the game we must have a goal and be dedicated”.

Courts that are having troubles are the courts that do not had regularly scheduled membership drives, and soon these courts do not have possible candidates for offices or workers for suggested activities. By “sharing our story” of the CDA membership we assist these ladies in strengthening the ladies faith commitment, and assist the member in developing her involvement in becoming more involved in missionary activities. There are many suggested missionary activities to choose from in the Catholic Daughter’s “Circle of Love” program.

To assist you in this mission many materials are available from National. Two years ago I provided “God’s Active Angels” flyers, to post in your parish. At the National workshop, in Belleville, IL “God’s Active Angels” skit was presented and provided for you to use at your meetings. You also were given my e-mail address to request copies of the skit, music, and posters. Many of you requested this material, and I was very pleased to provide it.

A membership report is available on the results of the contest. Please review it. Congratulations to all the courts that reached the 5% goal. Only 17.8% of the 1242 courts reached the goal. There was an increase of 32 new courts, but a loss of 65 courts. Membership is important for every member to keep our organization active and viable. Decreases from death are expected, but we must do what we can to retain our other members. New members bring new ideas and talent, which makes our organization more interesting and appealing. When I’ve had the experience to institute a new court, the ladies from 18 to? joined, and were very happy and excited to become a member. Too many of us adopted the idea that young women are to busy, which is false if the CDA program is presented correctly. Remember that until we have every Catholic woman a Catholic Daughter our work is not done.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you in this position of National Membership Chairman. It has been interesting assisting ladies who contact the National office or from the web site looking for a court to join or the possibility of what to do to start a new court.

We are each of us angels with only one wing,
And we can only fly by embracing one another.
Luciano de Crescenzo

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY REPORT 2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Shirley Seyfried, National Habitat for Humanity Chairman Second Vice National Regent

The latest project of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in partnership with Habitat for Humanity is the building of the Habitat for Humanity house in Marana, Arizona. The home is co-sponsored by the Arizona State Court and the National Court. Wall-raising for the house was started on Saturday, February 20, 2010. The home is being built in the town of the CDA State Chaplain Father Abran Tadeo, and it is only about a block from the Catholic Church and the rectory. Over 100 people came on Saturday for the wall raising. About midmorning, it started to pour rain and got very chilly so the work had to be called off for the day. About 15-20 Catholic Daughters, spouses, and friends worked Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, February 22-24, to complete the framing and to put the OSB on all of the exterior walls. The windows have since been installed in the house. The goal is to have the house completed and the dedication on November 20, 2010.

The family receiving the house is a widowed mother and her six children, who were there to help with the wall raising. They are very excited and grateful for their new home and have already planted a tree in memory of their husband and father outside the kitchen window.

A new National Chairman of Church Relations, Jonathan Good from Minnesota, has been appointed at Habitat for Humanity International. He has been told about the work of Catholic Daughters with Habitat and will be kept informed about our future projects. He will let us know if there are any grants available or any other ways that he could help us.

Several other states are also fundraising for Habitat houses. Washington State will be ready to build next, probably in the summer of 2011. The average cost of a home has now increased to about \$80,000 with National paying up to \$30,000. Please encourage your courts to contribute at least \$15 per year to the Habitat National Project so that we can continue to build Habitat homes. This is the one National Project where we not only contribute money but we actually serve those in need by physically helping to build their homes. Thank you for all your help in raising funds, working on the builds, and praying for success as we build homes and dreams in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

The question has been asked, "How does a state start to plan or where do we begin, if we want to build a Habitat house in our state?" The best place to start is to go to www.habitat.org/cd/local to find out where the local affiliates in your state are located and to get the phone numbers for the local affiliates. When the site opens, you scroll down to your state, hit search, (leave the other spots blank) and all the affiliates in your state will be listed. Then contact the affiliates in the areas where you might be interested in building (probably an area where you have a court or several courts that can coordinate the build), to tell them what you would like to do and to find out approximately how much it costs to build in that area. You will probably want to call several affiliates that would be possible locations as the prices of homes vary considerably with location.

Once you have an idea of the cost of the home and know whether the Affiliate is willing to work with you, a plan needs to be developed to raise the funds to build the house. National CDA will give up to about \$30,000 as their contribution to the State/National CDA sponsored house. You will then want to contact the National Chair of CDA Habitat Builds to get your state's name on the list for the year in which you wish to build. Building a Habitat house in your state is a great way for your state to work together to help those in need.

TERRITORIAL COURTS REPORT 2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

**Maryann Grabasky, Territorial Court Chairman
National Director**

Territorial Courts are those Courts that are in a state or country where there is no State Court. They abide by the National By-Laws and participate in the Circle of Love programs. State Courts are established where there are five or more local Courts and the combined membership exceeds 200 members.

Territorial Courts are very active in their respective locations. They are always working to enhance their visibility and exemplify what it means to be a Catholic Daughter.

At the present time, there are 23 Territorial Courts within the CDA organization. They are located in:

Alaska – 2 Courts - Ct. of the Little Flower #1243, Juneau; Ct. St. Pius X # 1866, Anchorage.

Indiana – 2 Courts – Ct. Immaculate Conception #568, Lafayette; Ct. Daughters of St. John the Evangelist #2633, Evansville, instituted 3/13/10 (Included in membership total).

Kansas – 2 Courts - Ct. Evarista #1138, Concordia; Ct. Salina #1972, Salinas.

Kentucky – 1 Court - Ct. St. Anne #2568, Richmond.

South Carolina – 2 Courts - Ct. St. Michael #2356, Garden City; Ct. Holy Family #2393, Goose Creek.

Tennessee – 1 Court - Ct. Our Lady of the Rosary #2624, Bristol

Washington, D.C. – 3 Courts - Ct. Our Lady of the Americas #2344; Ct. Our Lady of Good Council #2434; College Court at George Washington Univ. #2577.

Dominican Republic – 4 Courts

Guam – 2 Courts

Mexico – 3 Courts – Ct. Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe #2091, Nuevo Laredo; Ct. San Judas Tadeo #2459, Nuevo Laredo; Isabel Camandari de Talamas #2135, Ciudad Juárez.

Virgin Islands – 1 Court

Total Territorial Court membership as of March 31, 2010 is 1,161.

To present State and Local Courts, I encourage the sharing of newsletters, information on workshops, anniversary celebrations and future State conventions that would be near any of the Territorial Courts. We want to support these Courts and their membership.

Likewise, I would like to see the Territorial Courts publish their meetings and events in their diocesan publications and parish bulletins to encourage new membership and new Courts. Territorial Courts are a part of expanding CDA and integral to the future growth of our Organization.

HISPANIC COURTS REPORT

2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Olga Samaniego, Mexico Courts National Representative

Under the motto of Unity and Charity, the women of the Hispanic Courts are serving God and His people in much the same way as their sisters in the United States. Despite busy and demanding schedules, they are using their time and their talents to work for their parishes and communities.

Puerto Rico (Twenty-four Courts – 863 members)

Under the leadership of Irma Bonilla, State Regent, the members of the local courts of Puerto Rico are ladies of diverse cultures and ethnicities. Each individual court has its favorite projects and fundraisers, but as a state, they come together to work for several important projects. They work for the seminarians of Puerto Rico; they support drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities; and, they promote an understanding of the issues important to Catholics everywhere. For many years, they have participated in the Pro-Life March held in front of the Puerto Rican capital. They campaign ardently against pornography by sponsoring a radio program and by organizing and promoting the White Ribbon Campaign. JCDA is very active in Puerto Rico. The senior courts inspire, teach, and support the girls of Puerto Rico as they learn to love God and to serve others. JCDA members work hand in hand with the senior courts on many of the state-wide projects, and at the same time, they are active in their respective parishes. National Regent Libby Ramirez has served as the National Representative for the courts in Puerto Rico this term, and she has truly enjoyed working with and getting to know the members. The women of CDA in Puerto Rico reflect the beauty of their island paradise—their hearts are blooming and their service is blossoming and growing. They are continuing to flourish.

Mexico (Three Courts – 127 members)

San Judas Tadeo #2459, Nuevo Laredo, Mexico

Gabriela de Leon de Chapa has served as the regent of San Judas Tadeo for the last four years. The newly elected regent is Alicia Peña de Resendez. Using bingos as their main fundraisers, the court has accomplished great things this term. They have remodeled two bedrooms for seminarian's residence, and they have contributed funds for the addition of a new roof and for a patient undergoing chemotherapy. In addition to working within their parishes and in their own communities, the members are very active in caring for the poor of Nuevo Laredo. Their special project involves the children of "Los Kilometros." They are the impoverished children who live on the outskirts of Nuevo Laredo. The CDA members and their families gather food and supplies and distribute them to these children at least twice a year. They also spend time praying with the children and interacting with them through games and activities. This year they have remodeled an old building next to the church that will serve as a place where children can receive classes and other services. The building will be named after the Catholic Daughters of San Judas Tadeo and dedicated to Dr. Daniel Abrego Medina, a physician who dedicated his life to the poor of the area. This project has made almost as great an impact on the CDA members themselves as it has on the children of "Los Kilometros."

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe #2091, Nuevo Laredo, Mexico

Ninfa Martinez is the regent of Court Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Recently, they celebrated their 35th anniversary. They are facing the same problems as many of our courts in the USA – an older membership and difficulty in finding women who are willing to serve as court leaders. Fortunately, things are looking up. The court officers have been conducting membership drives and leadership training, and the newer court members are beginning to undertake leadership roles. One of their most important projects continues to be the support of the Seminary of Nuevo Laredo. Much of their fundraising is for the seminary, but they are also involved in the support of their parishes. They have a very helpful chaplain in Father Rogelio. The future is bright for Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Isabel Camandari de Talamas #2135, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

Because of the unrest in Ciudad Juarez, Court Isabel Camandari de Talamas is on reprieve. It has been difficult for the members to meet on a regular basis and to conduct normal activities. Acting Regent and charter member, Vicenta Benavente is determined to save the court and to bring it back to active service. Fortunately, she has the full support of the Court Chaplain, Father Francisco Javier Gomez. Together they are recruiting new members and trying to select a time and place where the members can meet regularly and safely. Fortunately, their efforts are working, and they are taking in new members. They should be able to be taken off reprieve, soon. Members of our order can be of great help to their sisters in Ciudad Juarez by lifting them up in prayer. Pray for peace in Ciudad Juarez, and pray that CDA members will remain courageous and steadfast in their determination to serve God.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the National Representative for the courts of Mexico. I have learned a great deal about our differences, but more importantly, I've learned that our differences are few. There may be cultural and political differences, but we are all members of one, universal church. We are all members of the Body of Christ, and we have all answered the call to service. CDA members in Puerto Rico and Mexico are vibrant and dedicated, and because of them, CDA will continue to grow.

RESOLUTIONS REPORT

2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Janet Martineau-National Resolutions Chairman
National Director

Beginning with the September 2008 National Board meeting, resolutions have been considered related to civic responsibility and voting (this was withdrawn as it directed prayer toward a political prayer group) and at the March 2009 board meeting, a resolution was adopted suggesting the membership offer to assist those suffering due to the economic times. During the Belleville conference, a resolution offered by the Montana State Court supporting adoption services was adopted as was one in response to the Papal Declaration of the Year of the Priest. In April the National Board adopted a resolution of thanks for the membership's response of financial assistance to disaster victims in Haiti and Chile.

In developing resolutions, the National Board has reviewed topics of importance to the Holy Father and the Bishops, related to the quality of life, and current events affecting our nation and world. Meeting biennially gives the national board an advantage to present in a timely fashion resolutions to be acted upon by the membership.

When submitting a resolution that has been adopted at a local or state level, be sure that the issue is a timely one so that it is relevant at the time of the national convention. Some of these issues may have already been addressed in national workshops or resolved by other means. Some of the concerns may be resolved by contacting the committee chair or the national office rather than submitting it in a resolution.

Resolutions asking for public prayer related to political events are not allowed for legal protection of our tax exempt status. A resolution that is appropriate for a particular state may be too specific to adopt as an action in a national resolution.

Because the national board meets prior to the July State Officers Conference, resolutions adopted during state conventions a few months prior could be submitted to the committee for consideration at that time.

When resolutions are adopted and put into practice, they give purpose, direction, and identify CDA with specific actions. Let our organization continue to seek ways to move forward with the mission of living our theme "for in Him, we live and move and have our being."

CEREMONIALS REPORT

2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Evelyn Saxton, National Ceremonial Chairman
National Director

After many months of precise review and revision by the committee working on the Tools of the Trade, the Ceremonials section has been completed and will be available at the National Convention in Buffalo, New York. The Ceremonials provide a framework for and description of the procedures for installation of officers and reception of new members both in the Mass and in the Court room. A checklist of activities that need to be completed in preparation for those ceremonies has been included with each section. The additional materials and revisions should prove very helpful in giving clear directions for the various ceremonies held by Catholic Daughters.

Ceremonies planned for the National Convention in Buffalo include the Living Rosary with participation by the clergy, National Board, Past National Regents and State Regents. A knotted rope will represent the rosary “beads”. At the conclusion of the rosary will be the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary by our National Regent accompanied by the Executive Board members.

According to National Convention Chairman Helene Shepard, each daily Mass will have a particular theme carried out through the readings, music and Offertory processions. Thursday Mass will be for “Service to God and Country” honoring military personnel, firefighters, law enforcement, medical, religious, married and single states and Catholic Daughters. Friday Mass will be a “Celebration of Life: In Heaven, on Earth and the Unborn” Memorial Service. Saturday will be the installation of the new National Chaplain, National Clergy Consultant and the incoming National Board. The convention events will conclude with a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday morning. Unique at this convention will be a choir composed of all Catholic Daughter members. Music has been sent to the choir members and rehearsal will take place before the convention starts.

The Ceremonials Committee is pleased to have been involved in the revision of the ceremonials and hopes the new procedures will be well-received and useful to the CDA membership.

Ceremonials Committee:

Evelyn Saxton, Chair
Duchess Collins
Helene Shepard
Libby Ramirez, Advisor

Catholic Daughters Come Alive on College Campuses

We currently have twelve (12) Catholic Daughter Campus Courts across the United States which are listed below. Campus Courts are most often established through the Campus Ministry of the college. Each college establishes a program within the scope of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas' mission that best meets the needs of the Catholic women on campus.

Campus Courts keep young ladies active in their faith, providing the spiritual cultural, civic, social and physical improvements of its members and helps in the development of leadership. Keeping the members well informed about CDA, it is our hope that when the young women leave their college life they will continue their membership in another court.

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Waco, Texas
Eileen Bentsen, Advisor
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Texas Women's & Univ. of North Texas
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Janet Wolf, Advisor
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Dr. Kim Archer, Advisor
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Stonehill College
Easton, MA
Sr. Jeanmarie Gribaudo, CSJ, Advisor
jgribaudo@stonehill.edu

For more information on Campus Courts, please contact co-chairman
Anne Nelson at anne_b@verizon.net or

Duchess Collins at DuchessCDA@comcast.net

NATIONAL NEWSLETTER CONTEST REPORT 2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

**Duchess Collins, National Newsletter Chairman
National Director**

This year, sixty-three (63) newsletters were received for the National Newsletter Contest: fifty (50) local court entries and thirteen (13) State Court entries.

There were three judges, each given a copy of the 2010 Guidelines, which included a deadline date to return the graded newsletters to me, and a “Thank You” letter for their time and willingness to help. Winners are determined by averaging the scores of the three judges and the highest three averaged scores determines the first, second and third place winners. Points were deducted in grading for omitting any one of the requirements.

My personal thanks to the State Regents that submitted the first place winners in their states and, above all, thanks to the local courts that took the time to submit their newsletters for the local court contest. The newsletters were wonderful and full of great participation within your churches and communities.

Your newsletters continue to be the best tool of communication, not only for the members that are able to attend the meetings, but it also keeps the homebound members informed of what is happening in her court. The newsletter is also a great vehicle to recruit new members and is a record of your court’s history. Continue to be creative and have fun. Suggestions for newsletter content have been included with this report.

Only one Territorial Court, St. Pius X, 1866 from Anchorage, Alaska, submitted their newsletter for consideration. Due to the fact that their newsletters will not contain any state news, because they do not have a state court within their state, puts them at a scoring disadvantage against the local courts where a state court exists. Therefore, a Category V, No Division, has been included for Territorial Courts.

It has been interesting to read about the energy, love, dedication and involvement of my Catholic Daughter sisters in their individual courts. It is very gratifying to read how Catholic Daughters are taking care of those in need, giving of their time and talent for charity and volunteering where needed. We are truly **Catholic Daughters in Action**.

Thank you for the opportunity and for your confidence to oversee the National Newsletter Contest for the past four years.

Suggestions for Newsletter content - What should the newsletter contain?

It should contain all the required elements as published in the current National Newsletter Contest Guidelines. Your Regent receives this information in the Fall National Quarterly.

Most importantly it needs contact information

Include the name, address and phone numbers of the officers, court chaplain, and editor.

Catholic Daughters are not the only ones that read our newsletters. Many courts place their newsletters in the lobby or offices of their parish. At this point your newsletter becomes a great recruiting tool, BUT without some contact information who does the perspective member contact? We may have just lost a new member.

National & State News: Divide up the news you receive from the national quarterly and your State Newsletter. There is plenty of information to work with and publish.

You are connected to a national organization and members need to know how and where they can find current information of national activities. More information is on the national website: www.catholicdaughters.org

Court activities: Put them in short articles with the byline (name) of the person that wrote the article under the headline. Short articles are more likely to be read than longer ones.

Acknowledgement of members: “Thank You”, sympathy, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. makes a newsletter more personal. This is additional information for those members that do not or cannot attend meetings.

Be sure to use excess “white space” with a related graphic, prayer, poem, recipe, announcements, etc.

It is my hope that these few suggestions will be of some help in future newsletters.

Thanks again for your participation and support in this year’s contest. We need everyone to be involved to support our local and national programs and contests. We have a wonderful story to tell...do your part in writing it.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT 2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Tom Panas, National Public Relations Chairman

Public relations is an important part of Catholic Daughter communications at the national, state and local levels.

Sending information to the media about Catholic Daughter activities leads to stories, more visibility and new members.

A recent example occurred after National Regent Libby Ramirez and National Regent-Elect Joanne Tomassi were interviewed on EWTN at the March for Life in Washington, DC. National Administrative Mary Impellizeri told me she had a phone call from a woman who had seen the interview and called headquarters to ask how to start a new court.

Publicizing Catholic Daughter Events

One event can be publicized at the national, state and local levels. For example, for the 2010 53rd National Biennial Convention, I am in the process of publicizing the Catholic Daughters nationally by sending news releases to national Catholic and secular media announcing the convention and highlighting the Catholic Daughters organization; I'm also publicizing it in the Buffalo area by trying to get Buffalo newspapers, radio and television interested in covering the convention.

I've contacted major newspapers with a statewide audience in states such as the Houston Chronicle in Texas to write a story about National Regent Libby Ramirez as her two-year tenure comes to a close at the convention and the St. Petersburg Times in Florida to write about National Regent-Elect Joanne Tomassi as she will begin her two-year term at the convention.

At the local level, I've contacted the parish bulletin of Joanne Tomassi's parish and the secular and diocesan newspapers in Libby Ramirez's hometown of Victoria, Texas. Also at the local level, following the elections at the convention, I will send pictures and news releases to the secular and diocesan newspapers in the cities of the newly-elected national board members.

A similar example was the March for Life in Washington, DC, in which I sent news releases to national secular and Catholic media informing them that the Catholic Daughters were attending the March and highlighting the Catholic Daughters organization and also sent news releases to the local newspapers of individual national board members highlighting those particular individual board members.

Public Relations for State Courts

State and local courts can and should contact the media, through their Public Relations Chairmen, or anyone who likes to write and take pictures. State courts can write to the key newspapers in their state about important events, for example:

Newly-elected state officers

State conventions

Habitat for Humanity builds

State officers traveling to the March for Life, State Officers' Conference and other events

New Junior or Campus Court

Suggest a newspaper profile of a state officer, district deputy or state chairperson

Announce winners of state scholarship awards

Present a list of charitable contributions by local courts, statewide

Public Relations for Local Courts

Local courts have many opportunities to contact their local media. Here are a few ideas:

When a court sends a story and picture for publication in SHARE Magazine, they can also send it to the media.

Take pictures and write a brief biography about new members and why they joined.

Newly-elected officers make for a good picture and caption.

If your court makes a donation, take a picture of a court member handing a check.

Festive pictures of court members marching in a local parade.

At each meeting, take a picture and write a story about some part of the meeting that is unique to that particular meeting.

Invite a local reporter to attend a meeting and write a story about it.

Suggest a newspaper profile of a court officer or member.

In general, it is a good idea to try to develop a relationship with the editors and/or religion reporters of the Catholic and secular newspapers in your town.

You don't have to take them out to lunch or become best buddies, just be consistent and professional in your written communications and pleasant and polite when you talk by telephone or if you visit with them in person.

On occasion, some Catholic Daughters have written to me, asking me to look at a news release or letter they are sending to a newspaper about their courts. This is terrific. If anyone has any questions about public relations, they should get in touch with me: tompanas@verizon.net or 212-877-3041 or:

Tom Panas
National Public Relations Director
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
10 West 71st Street
New York, NY 10023

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2010 National Convention, Buffalo, NY

Peggy O'Brien, Executive Director

It gives me great pleasure to report to you on the activities at the National Office since our last National Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In addition to the numerous phone calls, letters (too many to count) and the e-mails(also too many to count) there have been approximately 20 mailings sent to all courts from the National Office in addition to Statements from the Accounting Department.

Thanks to a very generous donation from the Birch Foundation, we were able to purchase eight (8) new computers for our office staff, including one for the apartment. We donated the old computers to a Work Program for mothers who had been incarcerated and are taking a course to get into the business world.

The next matter we have to consider is purchasing a new computer software program. Our membership and billing system is so outdated that our accountant is fearful that our system can crash at any time. It is an antiquated billing system which was specialized for our needs back in 1998. As some courts may have experienced a duplication of names added to their semi-annual billing, most of them were not actually added to the total membership. The system just added them twice to the report. They do not show up on your roster nor were you billed for them. This could be the beginning of the program malfunctioning. As soon as we can find the funds for this project, we will be able to upgrade.

We were also able to purchase a washing machine and a dryer thanks to a generous donation from the Past National Directors' Club and donations from others.

The office staff of six (6) full time employees and one (1) part time employee and our Public Relations person, Tom Panas, is very dedicated to the organization and will do anything asked of them. We are so very lucky to have them in our employ. Three of the staff members are here at the convention and you may have already met them. Mary Impellizeri is at registration, our Bookkeeper, Paz Maja, is in the Exhibit Room and Jim O'Brien is also in the Exhibit Room packing up your orders. Please stop by and say hello to them.

Our magnificent office building is located in a beautiful historic area of New York and we are required to keep our property up to Landmark Preservations standards. Right now we are in need of a new sidewalk in front of the building and a new roof and, upon returning home, I will be obtaining estimates for the two.

We are hoping that the 1903 Society donations will increase so that we can make these necessary repairs. The 1903 Society is designated for major repairs to our building. To date we have collected \$28,978.27 for this cause.

My biggest and most rewarding project over the past two years was working on and seeing the Tools of the Trade Second Edition come to fruition. It took the dedicated team many, many

hours to do this tremendous task and I thank Libby Ramirez for realizing her goal to get this overdue job completed during her term of office.

I would like to thank my entire staff for all of their hard work, but I would also like to mention the dynamite job that my Administrative Assistant Mary Impellizeri has done on this convention. Her knowledge of computers has been such an asset to the organization and to me. I thank her from the bottom of my heart for all her assistance while I was out of the office recovering from a fractured knee. I'd also like to thank all of you for your prayers and Masses and good wishes and gifts during this most trying time. They were truly appreciated.

It has been a pleasure working with and for the current National Board, and I look forward to the next two years under the direction of Joanne Tomassi.

Over the past two years we have had at least twenty-five (25) people visit and tour the National Office. Whenever you are visiting the New York area, please incorporate time to visit us. Our doors are always open to you at 10 W. 71st Street, New York, NY, Monday through Friday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.