

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



June 2008

Dear Catholic Daughter:

This is an important message to each member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Our organization is a 501(c)(3) organization. What does this mean?

- 1) It means we do "not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office." (Bylaws, page ii) This applies to federal, state and local offices.
- 2) It means we do "not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code." (Bylaws, page ii)
- 3) Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC), Catholic Daughters is exempt from paying Federal income tax.

Catholic Daughters follows the "Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations" published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) which states "This guidance focuses primarily on section 501(c)(3) of the IRC, because it contains a **prohibition, which has been interpreted as absolute**, against participation or intervention in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to **any** candidate, **as a condition of maintaining federal income tax exemption.**"

Guidelines and restrictions have been outlined on numerous occasions: In Operation Morning Star Newsletter, in *Share* magazine, at National and State workshops, with resolutions adopted at National Conventions.

Bylaw Article XVI Improper Conduct (page 52), Section 1, spells out how "Members or Courts violating the bylaws and rules of THE ORDER may, after a hearing, be suspended or expelled." Section 2 of the same Article, states "Political campaigning or other activity is not permitted to be introduced into the functions and conduct of THE ORDER."

One local court, or just one member of a local court, who violates our rules, puts our entire National organization in jeopardy of losing our tax-exempt status.

Catholic Daughters, this is a serious matter and each one of us has the obligation of adhering to our bylaws and rules.

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Claudia R. Bosch
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