

# CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

---

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



10 WEST 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10023

### **OPERATION MORNING STAR NEWSLETTER**

Volume IV, No. 7

March 2008



“OPERATION MORNINGSTAR”

#### **2008 March for Life**

Twenty-one (21) Catholic Daughters, plus one husband, gathered for the Rally and March in Washington, D.C. This is the largest attendance since CDA started meeting as a group in 2001. In addition to the Executive Committee, Father Michael Schommer (National Clergy Consultant), Helen Johnson, and M. Joan McKenna (Immediate Past National Regent), there were members from New Hampshire, New York State, and National Directors from Oregon, Oklahoma, and Pennsylvania. Members from at least Virginia and Vermont were in attendance as we visited with them at the Vigil for Life Mass on Monday evening or during the March on Tuesday.

The Vigil for Life Mass was, again, a most impressive ceremony with close to 800 seminarians and clergy participating. The Spring 2008 issue of *Share* will carry full details about the Mass, Rally and March.

#### **Remember this Beatitude ....**

“Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.” We must stand up and speak out for the truth. Remember this Beatitude when someone makes a snide or “uncomfortable” remark because of your participation in a “life” activity.

#### **Meeting with the Executive Committee**

The National Legislative Committee met with the Executive Committee on Monday while in Washington. Many subjects were covered in

that meeting -- among them: Faithful Citizenship, marriage amendment, proposed resolutions, public relations involving resolutions adopted, and legislation as a membership tool. You will be hearing more on each subject.

#### **Faithful Citizenship**

Every four years the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) issues their Faithful Citizenship document. The new document, issued November 14, 2007, is entitled “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship - A Call to Political Responsibility from

*the Catholic Bishops of the United States*” (Publication No. 7-026). The document does not contain new teaching but affirms what is taught by the Bishops’ Conference and the whole Church.

The document “highlights the role of the Church in the formation of conscience, and the corresponding moral responsibility of each Catholic to hear, receive, and act upon the Church’s teaching in the lifelong task of forming his or her own conscience.”

In addition to the document, there is a bulletin insert, “The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship” (Publication No. 7-027). This insert is a two-sided single page summary of the document.

Catholic Daughter courts are encouraged to secure copies of both the document and the bulletin insert. Some parishes are holding study groups on Faithful Citizenship; possibly, after contacting your pastor, a local court could sponsor such a study group in your parish.

Also, you could approach your court chaplain about leading a discussion on Faithful Citizenship at court meetings.

It is the responsibility of each of us to become educated on issues and, following Church teaching, we must then form a moral conscience.

To order the document and bulletin insert, call the USCCB Publishing Office at 1-800-235-8722.

Publication No. 7-026 costs \$1.95 each, plus shipping and handling. There is a 10% discount when ordering 25 copies, 15% discount with 50 copies. For larger quantity breaks, contact the Publishing Office.

Publication No. 7-027 is \$5.00 per package of 100, plus shipping and handling.

We hope many courts will order these publications and offer educational opportunities for its members.

### **Catholic Daughter Courts Involved in State Issues**

State legislatures are back in session. Catholic Daughter courts are feverishly working on bills which have been placed on the dockets or on initiatives in process to obtain signatures for specific issue(s) to be placed on the November ballot:

**Washington State:** Working with state Catholic Conference to defeat an initiative to place Assisted Suicide on November ballot.

**Pennsylvania:** Supporting a state amendment "defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman and preventing civil unions."

**South Dakota:** Working with Diocese of Sioux Falls on a state bill "Sonograms for Pregnant Women Prior to Abortion."

**Colorado:** Working with state Catholic Conference opposing two bills: One dealing with availability of health care services at

licensed hospitals; one dealing with employment nondiscrimination laws for certain religious entities that accept public dollars.

Catholic Daughter courts are expected to become active in state legislation. Consult the "New Legislative Policies" issued January 2004 for guidance.

### **State Marriage Amendments**

At the 2004 National Convention held in Tacoma, Washington, the delegates unanimously adopted the resolution supporting the position of the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in "affirming that marriage is between a man and a woman only."

This year, does your state have a marriage amendment in your state legislature or are signatures being obtained through a petition drive to get the issue on the November ballot? If so, please advise the National Legislative Committee.

### **Political Activity**

ALL members are encouraged to read the "Catholic Daughters and Political Activity" article in the Winter 2007-2008 issue of *Share*. Because of our tax-exempt status, it is necessary that every Catholic Daughter understands what our organization, and therefore, our members, can and cannot do in the political arena. Should there be any questions, do not hesitate to contact the National Legislative Committee.

### **Legislation as a Membership Tool**

Specific details will be forthcoming on using legislation to increase membership, but is your court now using legislation as a membership tool? As one local court states in their membership flyer: "**Why join a national organization?** As a group, we have a louder voice to speak against abortion, abuse, drugs, pornography, and legislation affecting the family, school and society. As a group, small contributions become larger. *'In numbers, there is strength!'*"

Approved: Claudia R. Bosch, National Regent