Catholic Daughters at the March for Life
Celebrate the Special Bond with Your Granddaughter

FREE 2-way Personalization

… with your Granddaughter’s name on the front and the name your granddaughter affectionately calls you on the back along with the pre-engraved words “I love you”.

Dear Sweet Granddaughter Bracelet

Show that special granddaughter of yours how you feel, with a new jewelry creation that you can customize two ways. Introducing the “Dear Sweet Granddaughter” Bracelet.

Hand-crafted in an Exclusive Design

At the center of this fashionable bolo-style bracelet, you’ll find a beautifully decorated bead engraved on the front with your granddaughter’s name, and on the reverse side with the name that she affectionately uses for her grandmother—Grandma, Nana, Grammie, or any name you choose—along with the pre-engraved words “I love you”. The design features six charms—representing the many blessings of a granddaughter—that are embellished with sparkling crystals and intricate designs. The bolo-style allows the bracelet to easily adjust from 6” to 9” with the beautifully decorated heart-shaped slider bead. Plus, this personalized bracelet is presented in a keepsake box with the touching “My Dear Sweet Granddaughter” poem.

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This custom bracelet is an incredible value at just $89.99*, payable in 3 easy installments of $30, and backed by our unconditional 120-day guarantee. To reserve yours, send no money now; simply fill out and mail your Priority Reservation. But don’t delay... this is a limited-time offer!

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The Bradford Exchange
P.O. Box 806, Morton Grove, IL 60053-0806

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**Need additional bracelets? Use a separate piece of paper, include personalization needed, and mail with this form.**

**Plus sentiment already included:**

“Loves you!”

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*Plus a total of $10.98 shipping and service (our Bradford Exchange Card, please allow 4 to 6 months after your initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

Signature

Mrs. Mr. Ms.

Name (Please print clearly)

Address

City State Zip

E-mail (optional)

01-28122-001-E51331

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*Plus a total of $10.98 shipping and service (our Bradford Exchange Card, please allow 4 to 6 months after your initial payment for shipment. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.
Not long ago, we marked the sad anniversary of the dreadful Roe v. Wade decision. Among many pressing issues, the legality of infant murder in the womb is the great justice issue of our day. We work and pray for the undoing of this incoherent and gravely evil law. Of course, we must strive to see it undone, not only in the law formally, but also in people’s minds and hearts, so that once again, all children in the womb will be respected and protected.

To this end, the witness of the annual March for Life, and the similar events throughout the country and even the world, is profound. Year after year, these events are among the largest public protests that occur. The women and men who attend are passionate, joyful, respectful, and inviting. The unmistakable message they proclaim, with the greatest charity and without violence and anger, is that this injustice must end, because it is mutually exclusive with the “civilization of love” to which we aspire.

That civilization, as Pope Saint John Paul II so often taught, can only be built on the recognition and protection in law and culture of the precious, sacred dignity of each human being, from conception to natural death. This “right to life” is the foundation of every other right we claim. If we are not safe in our very personhood, then we are not safe in anything. And indeed, no one chooses to live in such a world, though many are forced to by circumstances.

By you, especially, as Catholic Daughters, the same witness of love can speak loudly in daily life. You can, as it were, “march for life” every day, by how you speak and act towards our culture’s vulnerable and outcast people: not only “unwanted” babies (how much that label reveals!), but also the elderly and infirm, the homeless, the incarcerated, those suffering from severe mental illness, the immigrant, the unemployed, and so many others. As our Savior taught in the parable of the Good Samaritan, all of these are “our neighbor,” no less than those who, by loving us well, make it easy to love them in return.

There are many ways we as disciples of Christ can love those our society prefers not to see. We should always remember to include them in our prayers. God hears all prayers, and none are ever wasted. We should strive to speak kindly about them, and to them. This witness to their basic humanity and dignity can be powerful indeed. We should offer them appropriate forms of the works of mercy. Mercy is precisely what our culture callously denies them. And we can lead and encourage charity and outreach to them at our parishes, so that many others may also be led to recognize their dignity, and have the opportunity to serve them.

How far we are from living in that longed-for civilization of love! Yet it is part of our vocation to strive to get ourselves and those around us a little bit closer to that goal. You as Catholic Daughters have a unique part to play in the Church’s mission of bringing Christ’s light, mercy, and love into the world. I encourage you to be bold in your faith as you live out these roles in your family and parish. It may seem at times that our witness bears little fruit, and we may be tempted to hide our light, but we must cling bravely to the truth as Christ teaches, and trust that He will not let our faithful efforts be in vain. From the foot of the Cross, which is where we stand in this life, it may seem like defeat, but Easter is coming, with the victory over sin and death that only Christ can bring. Steadfast fidelity will keep us on the path of salvation, and fearless proclamation will bring many others along with us.

May our gentle Savior continue to bless you all most abundantly, and especially with the gifts of faith, hope, and love. Please pray for me, as I pray earnestly for you.

Your brother in Christ,
Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless
Bishop of Sioux City
Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Winter 2022
Volume 52 | Number 1

National Chaplain
Bishop Walker Nickless

National Clergy Consultant
Rev. Silby Punnoose

National Regent
Sherry Nilles, Iowa

National Regent-Elect
Emily Guilherme, California

First Vice National Regent
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Irene Gramza, Arizona
Barbara Ward, Nebraska
Carolyn Malik, Texas
Darlene Moritz, Iowa

About the Cover
Catholic Daughters came from near and far as is their annual tradition to show their annual support for the unborn by attending the National March for Life. In the photo they are gathered in the Sanctuary following the National Prayer Vigil for Life held in the beautiful and majestic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

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www.catholicdaughters.org

Editorial Offices:
Share Magazine
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
10 West 71st Street
New York, NY 10023
(212) 877-3041

Advertising Sales Representative:
Tom Panas
(212) 877-3041
Email: cdashare@aol.com
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The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has approximately 60,000 members in 1250 courts in the United States, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
Prior to the March for Life, Archbishop Robert J. Carlson celebrated Mass for Generation Life pilgrims at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington Va. In his homily, he said that more than 61 million abortions have occurred since the 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, but abortion is more than just a number. “Of all the creatures that God has created, only human beings share in His image, and each one of us was given the ability to know, receive and return the love of God,” said the Archbishop who has attended 14 marches. “The dignity of human life is determined by God and thus is always to be protected.”

In regards to respecting life we must, on both a local and global level, make policies and decisions that safeguard the sanctity and quality of life. From the unborn baby in the womb to the elderly, it is important that we realize that every life is precious and the life of every person is sacred. No one has the right anywhere in the world, at any time, to deprive a person of this fundamental human right. If we were to take just this one particular aspect of respect, we would be able to curb the many actions that result in the ending of so many lives, either directly through violent action such as abortion, war or police actions, or indirectly through the destruction of the family’s ways of life through poor economic and health policies.

Considering this is the 21st century we would think that respect for human rights would be universal. However, it seems that in the race for more countries to become materially wealthy and militarily secure, human rights are being violated more than ever. Pick up the newspaper on any given day, and we can see human rights violations all over the world. If the leaders of the world wish to be respected then they must remember the unspoken maxim for respect; “respect must be earned and not given.” Unfortunately, many leaders are coercing their own countrymen to “respect them.” A new era of human rights is upon us, but respect for the individual is a critical ingredient necessary for that to be realized.

If all citizens were to make a stand for everyone else’s right to be fully actualized the issue that we have in the world would begin to fade away. We the people of the world need to pursue global objectives that we can pursue locally, as opposed to local objectives that we are trying to pursue globally, with the intent of respecting the human rights of every individual. It is an issue of respect. The question then is “how are we going to choose to respect and serve one another?”

God says in Isaiah 55:8 “My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.” God’s ways can become our ways when we put on the mind of Christ. St. Paul exhorts in his letter to the Colossians (3:12-17) that we should put on the mind of Christ. That means put on his attitude, his ways of looking at situations, making judgements as Christ would make them as we look at various people and situations. We have Christ within us because we are baptized; therefore, we already have the mind of Christ. We must engage it and decide to treat all people as Christ would treat them. God bless you all.
Wrap Yourself in the Comforts of Faith as Inspiration Meets Fashion

Footprints
in the Sand
Ladies Hoodie

Introducing a Custom Fashion Exclusive from The Bradford Exchange

‘When You Saw Only One Set of Footprints it was then that I Carried You...

Let the breathtaking beauty of nature and the power of faith surround you every time you wear the "Footprints in the Sand" Ladies Hoodie, available only from The Bradford Exchange.

Crafted in an ivory easy-care cotton blend, our hoodie unzips to reveal the "Footprints in the Sand" poem on the back lining in a beautiful script. This designer-style hoodie features footprint artwork across the back, a full front zipper with a gold-toned cross set with a rhinestone, knit cuffs, front hip pockets and soft contrasting taupe jersey lined hood. Women’s sizes S-3X. Imported.

A Remarkable Value... Available for a Limited Time

Act now to acquire your hoodie for just $99.95* (sizes 1X-3X, add $10), payable in 3 installments of $33.32, and backed by our 30-day money-back guarantee. Send no money now; just fill out and mail the Reservation Application. This is a limited-time offer. So order today!

www.bradfordexchange.com/footprintshoodie

Gold-toned Cross Zipper Puller with a Shimmering Rhinestone at the Center

*Plus $4.99 shipping and service per item. Limited-edition presentations restricted to 95 firing days. Please allow 4-8 weeks after initial payment for shipment of Edition One. Display is shipped after Edition Four. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.

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Name (Please Print Clearly)
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City State Zip
Email

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M Y DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST,

This most holy season of the year is a time to review, refresh and renew our personal lives. Lent is a perfect time to enhance our lives. As the days turn warmer, a perfect place to be is a quiet, warm, comfortable rocker on the patio or other inviting location. Start with a heartfelt thank you for family, friends, life! Then listen.

Quiet is needed to hear God speak to us. Be quiet and truly listen. Take the humdrum daily problems and worries to your special quiet area. A bible, prayer book and journal could be available. Return refreshed and ready to enjoy your day! God bless you!

It was my great honor to be an observer at the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Fall General Assembly in Baltimore. The joy of being able to meet in person was evident as the bishops greeted each other and worked together. A more comprehensive article on the General Assembly meeting is included in this issue of SHARE magazine.

January 20 was the Vigil Mass for Life held in the beautiful Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. It was so good to see the church full of students, young children with their parents, mothers, fathers, families, religious sisters, priests, seminarians and all age groups praying and singing together. The following day The March for Life took place. Emily Guilherme, National Regent-Elect and I were interviewed on EWTN. The temperature was in the low 20’s with a strong wind from the north, but nothing could stop the powerful feeling of standing for life from conception until natural death. Tom Panas, National Public Relations Director for the Catholic Daughters has more information and pictures in a story about the March included in this issue.

The forms for registration of delegates, alternates, state officers, guests and spouses, meals, exhibitors and vendors for the 59th Biennial National Convention to be held at the Sheraton Hotel and Casino, 200 Convention Blvd, San Juan Puerto Rico July 20-24, 2022 were sent in the envelope with the National Quarterly.

Tours will be available Sunday, July 17, Monday, July 18 and Tuesday morning, July 19.

Workshops on Leadership, Spirituality, Family, Membership, Youth and JCD, keeping a court active and alive, working together to make the best better will be held Tuesday, July 19.

Tuesday evening is a wonderful free concert presented by Msgr. Willey Pena and his troop from the university. It is entitled Enjoy a Fabulous Night of Puerto Rico Culture. The convention will open Wednesday, July 20 with a Mass. Candidates Night will be held at 5:00 p.m. Wednesday night. Voting for new officers, National Directors and the nominating committee will start the day on Thursday. The Memorial Mass will follow voting. State Night gatherings will be held Thursday night. Friday includes the God and Country Mass and Fun Night hosted by our awesome Puerto Rico members. Be ready for laughter, dancing, Puerto Rican special foods and then more fun! Saturday at 4:00 PM will be the Installation Mass, and the Appreciation Dinner is Saturday evening. In between all the prayers, fun and laughter will be our business meeting.

It will be so good to gather together in person, to share a hug or a smile and stories of our life the past four years. See you in Puerto Rico!
A Porcelain Tribute to a Much-Missed Loved One

When we lose someone we love so dearly, out of sight never means out of mind. And this angelic Precious Moments® messenger is here to remind you that your loved one now holds a special place in Heaven ... just as they will forever hold in your heart.

Handcrafted with 22k gold highlights.

Sculpted in fine bisque porcelain, every tender detail of “Heaven’s Embrace” is etched by hand, from each delicate “feather” in the angel’s wings to her cheerful bluebird friend. Its hand-painted pearlescent finish gives the entire figurine a soft shimmer, while a handcrafted halo of 22k fired-on gold brilliantly gleams from every angle.

And lovingly displayed on the hand-sculpted bench, a promise-filled sentiment reminds us that those we truly love are never truly gone.


Limited to 120 firing days, this hand-numbered edition is available only from Hamilton for three payments of $36.66*. Send no money now; we’ll bill your first payment prior to shipment. Money-back guarantee! Reserve today!

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With our National Convention in Puerto Rico quickly approaching, I have the pleasure of introducing the myriad of opportunities for adventures and tours that will be available to you while we’re enjoying our fellowship with each other on this beautiful island. Numerous restaurants, shopping, beaches, rainforests, and historic sites abound, and here are a selection of things that will help immerse you into the beautiful island life. Our friends at Destination Puerto Rico have tailored these adventures just for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas’, so I invite you to peruse these excursions and get excited!

**Old San Juan**
Just 15 minutes from metro area properties one finds a UNESCO historical site like no other. Breathtaking scenes splashed with centuries of history, rich culture, music, world-class shopping, and some of the best restaurants in the Caribbean. San Juan is definitely a must see when in Puerto Rico!

**City Tour of Old San Juan**
Explore Old San Juan on an in-depth walking tour of the city, learning about the various points of interest including Fort San Cristobal, a mainstay of the San Juan fortification system, La Rogativa sculpture, Cristo Chapel, and the “Puerta de San Juan” (Door of San Juan). You’ll see the beautiful 17th century Spanish ironwork on the restored homes and note the blue-black glazed cobblestones used to surface the narrow streets of the Old City. In addition, you will have time to explore some of the many interesting shops, boutiques, and art galleries that have made this historic area their home.
Old San Juan Historical Sail
Departing from Pier Old San Juan cruise port aboard the Amazing Grace, a topsail schooner, you will take in the beautiful views of our Historical City while sailing along the Bay listening to our history of over 500 years. Enjoy the beautiful views of the bay, El Morro, La Fortaleza, and Paseo La Princesa among other beautiful backdrops and mesmerizing landscapes. This 90 minutes sail includes refreshments.

Arts: Museum and Murals Tour
Your experience will start at the Museo de Arte de Puerto Rico (Museum of Art of Puerto Rico), where you will receive a guided tour of their permanent collection and have time to enjoy their sculpture garden as well. From here we’ll take the exploration outdoors and explore some of the streets of Santurce and Miramar to see some of the more modern and vibrant street art that adorns these neighborhoods.

Piñones & Loiza Culture Experience
Visit the nearby coastal areas of Piñones and Loiza, the epi-center of Afro-Puerto Rican culture, and see that there is more history and culture to be discovered outside of Old San Juan. Discover the roots of the island and learn about our African heritage, visiting a gallery featuring temporary revolving exhibits of local art, exploring a small cave in which artifacts dating back to the Tainos have been found, participating in the Turban Workshop and learning all about the local dance called Bomba.

Hacienda Muñoz Coffee Plantation
Coffee is an important part of Puerto Rico’s history, once grown in all towns throughout the island. Still a popular Puerto Rican product, the island has experienced a new found focus on growing quality coffee. This tour will give you the opportunity to visit a lovely working Coffee Plantation, only 50-65 minutes from San Juan, in the town of San Lorenzo.
Upon arrival at the plantation, your knowledgeable guide will welcome you and take you on a guided walk through the hillside plantation during which you will learn the history of coffee, the planting, care, growing and harvesting, roasting and packaging of our coffee, as well as the current state of the industry on the island, and the working machinery they use to create their artisanal coffee. Following the tour, enjoy a delicious coffee beverage made with this intoxicating bean along with a pastry or snack cake before returning to your resort.

All Day Trip to Ponce
This tour starts bright and early, heading inland on the trans-island expressway, through the lush green hills of the interior and across the cordillera of mountains to the drier Caribbean side of the island to Ponce. Your tour will begin with a panoramic view of the Caribbean coast from El Vigia Hill, towering several hundred feet over the city of Ponce at the point where the central cordillera starts to rise – it was from here that early residents scanned the horizon for pirates. Immediately below this look-out point is Serrallés Castle, the baronial estate of Puerto Rico’s most powerful rum producing families, who produce Don Q Rum. You will actually tour this “castle” which is a magnificent example of Spanish Revival architecture popular in the 1920’s and includes furnishings that date back to medieval Spain mixed in with what were then the “modern” appliances of the early 20th century. You finish this segment of the tour actually feeling that you have met the members of the Serrallés dynasty. Next, you will head to the city’s center that has been lovingly restored to its original turn of the century splendor and features a spacious tree-lined plaza, which encompasses the Cathedral and fanciful red and black Parque de Bombas (firehouse), which was imported from a world’s fair. Horse drawn carriages are usually found at the square as well. Time will then be allowed for lunch with your girls at one of the restaurants located near the plaza. Following lunch, you will go directly to either a coffee plantation or the museum of art to finish your day experience before returning to San Juan.

Old San Juan Churches and Chapels
A certified tour guide will walk you through the streets of Old San Juan exploring this 500+ year old city and how the Catholic faith was a critical piece of settling the city. Visit churches, chapels, and historical landmarks along the way as you experience the city from a different perspective and transport yourself back to times gone by with the interesting and informative narration.

After reading through these incredible extension tours, I know you must be ready to register, and soon you can! You’ll have an opportunity to register for these tours starting in April, so until then, encourage your Catholic Daughters, family, and guests to register for these wonderful and exciting tours. Looking forward to seeing you in San Juan at the National Convention! You won’t want to miss out on this incredible journey.
Basic Happenings at the Convention
(This is a tentative outline schedule, subject to change)

**SUNDAY, JULY 17 - TOURS**
Registration 2:00-8:00 PM
Tours

**MONDAY, JULY 18 - TOURS**
Registration 8:00 AM-6:00 PM
Tours

**TUESDAY, JULY 19 - WORKSHOPS/CONCERT**
Registration 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon
Tours AM
9:00 AM - Mass
1:00-2:30 PM CDA Workshops
3:00-4:30 PM CDA workshops
5:00 PM Choir Practice
5:00 PM Committee Meetings
7:00 pm Enjoy a Fabulous Night of Puerto Rico Culture

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 20**
Registration 8:00 AM
9:00 AM Opening Mass of the Convention
10:00 AM Opening Session #1 of the 2022 Convention
12:30 PM Past National Regents/National Regent
2:00-5:00 PM Business Session #2
5:00 PM Candidates Social Hour
7:00 PM National Directors Club Dessert/Biennial Meeting

**THURSDAY, JULY 21**
Registration 8:00 AM
9:00 AM Business session #3
10:30 AM Elections (delegates only)
11:00 AM Memorial Mass
12:30 PM Clergy Luncheon
2:30-5:00 PM Business Session #4
6:00 PM State Dinners

**FRIDAY, JULY 22**
6:30 AM Walk/Run for Love
8:30 AM Business Session #5
11:00 AM God and Country Mass
12:30 PM State Regents Luncheon
2:00-5:30 PM Business Session #6
7:00 PM Puerto Rico Fun Night

**SATURDAY, JULY 23**
9:00 AM Closing Business Session #7
10:45 AM Retiring of the Colors
4:00 PM Installation Mass
6:30 PM Appreciation Banquet

**SUNDAY, JULY 24**
9:00 AM Closing Mass
The official theme for the 49th annual National March for Life was “Equality begins in the womb.” On the March for Life website President Jeanne Mancini explained that, “Equality Begins in the Womb highlights how true equality is only possible if we recognize that children in the womb also deserve protection.”

The March this year had an added layer of excitement and anticipation because there has been talk of the possibility that, after many, many years and much frustration, the devastating Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade in 1973 might be overturned in the foreseeable future.

The Supreme Court is expected to decide on the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization, regarding a Mississippi law which bans abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. Initial signals are that the Supreme Court will uphold this abortion ban, and there are signs that the Court may be motivated to re-visit Roe v. Wade with the possibility of it being overturned. Thus, policy regarding abortion would be returned to each state unlike now in which the Federal Government determines that abortion is legal.

There was thus an extra jump and lightness to the steps...
of those marching and an added context of hope informing the prayers of many of those in the pews at the National Prayer Vigil Mass for Life the night before the march.

The long-standing tradition of Catholic Daughters attending, which began at the first march after the Roe v. Wade decision, was continued as the five National Officers, some National Directors, and state officers and members came from Louisiana, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Iowa and as far away as Arizona, California, New Mexico and Puerto Rico.

National Director Ivone da Silveira made the long trip from Puerto Rico even amid her busy preparations for the upcoming Biennial National Convention in Puerto Rico and as an admirable show of dedication and commitment all five State Officers from New Mexico flew across the country to show their respect for Life.

The Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life was held at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Catholic Daughters reserved their traditional row of pews in the front of the altar for a wonderful view of the Mass. To accomplish this, they arrived at 10:00 AM on the morning of the 5:30 PM Mass!

An added plus was Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, Rector of the Basilica, spoke during Mass and in welcoming various groups mentioned the Catholic Daughters specifically by name. The Catholic Daughters have been very generous to the Shrine over the years, and it was nice to be acknowledged.

Indeed, EWTN (the Eternal Word Television Network), which televises the Mass, did capture Catholic Daughters in their pew on several occasions.

This year’s Vigil Mass theme was “For Giving Thanks to God for the gift of Human Life.” The traditional grand entrance of the clergy was limited because of COVID concerns so that some of the clergy that had processed in the past were situated in their seats in the Sanctuary before the Mass.

Nonetheless, it was breathtaking to see the bishops and priests in white conveying prayerful and solemn spirituality as they processed through the Basilica to the altar.

National Regent Sherry Nilles was also given special seating in the Sanctuary with other leaders and dignitaries, a gesture of respect to the Catholic Daughters who have been generous to the Shrine over the years. Sherry said that it was “an awesome experience.”

“I was very honored to be invited to be seated with
other Catholic leaders in the Sanctuary and represent the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at the Vigil Mass for Life,” Sherry said.

“That gave me a great view of the people attending. It was wonderful to see the students from Catholic schools and colleges giving hope that supporting life will continue for years to come. The seminarians give hope that our church will continue to teach respect for life for all God’s people. Religious sisters give hope that prayers will continue until there is respect for every age.”

This was the sixth March for Pennsylvania State Regent Shirley Hall and she said, “The events of these three days are a very reflective and spiritual time for me as I ponder how precious the life of everyone, young and not so young is. The Vigil Mass prepares me spiritually, through the homily and the reception of the Holy Eucharist, for being present in the march and walking with so many in support of the Pro-Life Movement.”

Shirley adds, “Since I came to the Basilica very early this year, I had a lot of time to observe those entering and that most were taking their early arrival for personal prayer. I thought the sporadic prayer by the different groups kept my mind from wandering and left me with the feeling we truly were all there to proclaim our support for those who cannot speak for themselves.”

Veteran March for Lifer National Regent-Elect Emily Guilherme (she has been to ten marches) said, “I love the Vigil Mass where we come together to proclaim our faith and see so many young people fight for Pro-Life gives so much hope.”

Emily continued, “The homily of the Archbishop, to me, was very straightforward and touched me as to how devoted he truly was in his mission with pro-life activities, ‘Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.’ Luke 6: 36-38

For veteran marcher Elizabeth Scheuren (over 30 marches), Past Virginia State Regent and member of Court Kavanaugh #54, Alexandria, Virginia, attending the Vigil Mass is always one of the highlights of the National March for Life. “Normally the National Shrine would be filled to capacity,” Elizabeth said, “upstairs and downstairs. But due to Covid, the upper church was full but not ‘packed.’
Principal Celebrant Archbishop William Lori of Baltimore gave a moving sermon plus a shout out to all the young pilgrims before the final blessing. The march is now mostly a young people’s event.”

The grand procession of the clergy into the Basilica was especially moving for New Mexico State Regent Dr. Catherine Collins. Dr. Collins, a first-time marcher, said, “I had previously attended Mass at the Shrine, but I had never seen so many clergy concelebrating the Mass. What a blessing to have been able to attend this in such a beautiful church. When I left New Mexico, there was the excitement of traveling to this beautiful city. The excitement only increased and what an experience to be able to share it with my other CDA sisters.”

This was also the first March for Life for National Director Ivone Da Silveira and she was deeply moved. “The truth is I loved every minute of the Vigil Mass, March and the Legislative Meeting. Each one of them had a particular enchantment. Starting with being able to visit the Basilica with its beautiful chapels and impressive structure, but most importantly seeing so many young people around us at the Mass, in the Basilica and everywhere, lines for confession and them calling themselves the Pro-Life Generation. It was wonderful to experience all of this and made me happy because I realized that there is hope for a better world.”

**EWTN INTERVIEW**

Another tradition was continued on the morning of the march during the customary interview of the National Regent and National Regent-Elect by Teresa Tomeo on EWTN. This year Sherry Nilles and Emily Guilherme spoke...
on behalf of the Catholic Daughters in front of the camera. The context of the interview was different from previous years since it was held smack in the middle of the National Mall before the Rally took place with enlivening music and inspiring speakers.

During their interview there was raucous and fun music in the background and Sherry and Emily spoke eloquently about the Catholic Daughters’ long-standing commitment to life and the Pro-Life activities that courts across the country engage in.

When asked if she was nervous during the interview, Sherry replied, “Not nervous...just freezing! We have never had to stand in the cold and wind waiting to be interviewed. A heated tent was used in the past.”

This was Emily’s first EWTN interview and she admits to being a little nervous. “The interview for EWTN was scary but an honor to be there, and I wanted to in my own small way let them know that CDA and I stand for Life and we must never give up the fight for the unborn. We must walk the walk in word and deed.”

THE MARCH

After the interview the Catholic Daughters congregated at Constitution Avenue and 12th Street to join the March which started off about 1:00 PM. While waiting for the March to begin Past Office Manager Mary Impellizeri, First Vice National Regent Susan Moné and Second Vice National Regent Essie Walker did the busy work of piecing together the CDA Banner. Susan and Mary and National Secretary-Treasurer Connie Dronette and others did a fine job of holding the poles to keep the proud banner upright as they marched.
Connie also periodically took video that was livestreamed on the CDA Facebook page that she administers, including the Chaplet of Divine Mercy before the Vigil Mass and the Legislative Meeting.

The march was filled with excitement. Though abortion is a sober business indeed and is being dealt with most seriously, the march contained a sense of hope and often gaiety. Young people were well represented and added fresh and optimistic energy, smiling, often chanting, enthusiastic about their belief in the Pro-Life cause and expressing youthful optimism about the future.

Emily Guilherme was tuned into that excitement and was energized by the variety of marchers. “The march for me gives such a feeling of ‘we can change this,’ that every child no matter their circumstance of how they were conceived deserves to be born and live this wonderful life that God has for us, to see young and old, single, married couples with small children and babies in strollers march for this cause is so inspirational and gives us the belief that we can and will make a difference.”

Dr. Collins added, “This year’s March was the very first one I had ever attended in our nation’s capital, and it is one I will never forget. My husband was born in Washington, DC and grew up in and around the sites. Over the past 35 years, I have visited this amazing city many times. However, being a part of this March with others who also believed and felt the same way about seeing an end to the horror of abortion was truly an amazing experience.”

“WOW!” said Ivone Da Silviera while marching. “To see people from all over -- schools, organizations like ours, Knights of Columbus and people from around the United States was marvelous. But even more marvelous was to be
able to march with my Catholic Daughter sisters proudly carrying our banner and chanting out loud, ‘WE ARE CDA AND PRO LIFE.’ It was an experience that I will always cherish in my heart for ever and ever.”

Elizabeth Scheuren was on Constitution Avenue but unable to connect with the CDA Marchers. “For over 20 plus years, members of Court Kavanaugh have met up with the National Board and other members to march together behind the CDA Banner,” Elizabeth said.

“This year, I had trouble meeting up with the group. I took some photos and then walked up several blocks and anchored myself on top of one of the leftover ‘frozen ice hills’ to watch the march pass by. Instead of walking behind one banner, I was able to watch all the banners and marchers passing by. It was a very joyous crowd. There is great hope for overturning Roe v. Wade and the crowd sensed this.”

The March ended on the stairs of the Supreme Court building and the Catholic Daughters completed their participation at the corner of Constitution Avenue and One First Street, NE, which is the street the Supreme Court is on. Ending on the steps of the Supreme Court building is a fitting and symbolic end of the march, symbolizing, especially this year, the possible end of Roe v. Wade.

LEGISLATIVE MEETING

This year’s annual Legislative Meeting was held at 9:00 AM on the Saturday morning after the March. The guest speakers were Joan Bell, who has been active for many years in the Pro-Life movement, and her husband Christopher Bell, who is founder and president of Good Counsel, homes for pregnant mothers and children. Joan is as committed to Pro-Life as a person can be; she
has been arrested more than 200 times and spent more than six years in jails and prisons on behalf of the cause. Joan has equanimity about the situation and a sense of humor about being imprisoned, “I will say one thing about going to jail; it was the best prayer time of my life.”

Joan was 24 years old in January 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court “pseudo-legalized baby murder,” and she became involved in the struggle to protect the pre-born and restore their fundamental human rights. In 1978 she heard about the work of non-violent direct intervention at “abortion mills” and became wholeheartedly committed to the Rescue Movement. She has organized and participated in pro-life rescues throughout North America, Eastern and Western Europe and South America.

“Pro-abortion advocates talk about women’s rights,” Joan said. “Well, babies have rights too. And we don’t talk about men. That’s part of the propaganda. They are muffled, and men have no right to speak; some fathers don’t even know they have a child.”

Praying the Rosary outside of abortion clinics, as many Catholic Daughters do, can actually save lives, Joan said. “Three times a baby meant to be killed [by abortion] didn’t die, and it was because somebody was praying the Rosary. So: go out and pray the Rosary!”

The Catholic Daughters are on the same page as this as many courts pray Rosaries for the Unborn and protest and hold vigils outside of abortion clinics.

Joan does not believe that a baby born of rape should be aborted. “A child of rape is a second victim,” she said. She is angry about President Biden’s support of abortion and said, “We will pray in front of the White House because we have a president who claims to be Catholic, but it’s a scandal that he supports abortion.”

Joan believes that in trying to stop abortion, “we are doing the job of the government, the job of the courts, the police, they should be closing down these ‘death camps.’ I am happy that I know a police chief who refused to arrest pro-lifers. He charged them with ‘Protecting the Innocent.’”

She adds, “This ‘holocaust’ would be over if we just wouldn’t cooperate with it. So, many companies collaborate,” adding, “the Pro-life movement is certainly the most nonviolent movement in our time. No movement
Sherry Nilles, right, with Legislative Meeting guest speakers Joan and Chris Bell.

has been as nonviolent as Pro-Life because it’s Christian. We must love the abortionists; ‘Forgive them Father for they know not what they do.’ And there is conversion; do not forget that the soldier who pierced Jesus had a conversion.”

Listening to Joan was energizing in part because of the stark and honest use of language: “abortion mills,” “baby mills,” “holocaust,” “pseudo-legalized baby murder,” and “death camps” pierce beneath the veneer of the polite language used to support abortion.

Joan and Chris are inspiring examples of devout commitment to the Pro-Life cause and all attendees on Saturday morning were encouraged and moved by them.

Sherry Nilles was also inspired and energized by Joan and Chris and indeed the entire March experience. “Pro-Life has definitely made some progress this year, but we cannot stop now!” she said. “We must keep praying and supporting those who stand for life from conception to a natural death.”

Sherry concluded, “Our children and grandchildren need to continue with the groundwork done in the past. God bless them as they do continue to support life!” 🌟
The leaders and members of our organization have continued to serve under our motto, Unity and Charity. As leaders and members, let us take a moment to focus on several ways to help manage and support the life and longevity of our great organization.

Yes, we are experiencing challenging moments within our local courts and even our state courts. However, we can strengthen the life and longevity of our organization through praying daily, being committed to sharing one's time and talents, leading by example, volunteering, spreading peace, encouraging one another, promoting togetherness, promoting positivity, showing respect, sharing ideas and suggestions, sharing our CDA history, passing on court information, following protocol, studying, and knowing the bylaws and tools of the trade, setting goals, training and diversity.

**ACTIONS THAT CAN HELP PRESERVE CDA**

1. **Praying daily...**
   We often hear there is power in prayer. When we pray the Rosary, it enables God to work on our behalf. Hold prayer time with CDA members, church community and family members. It is important to keep our organization and CDA members in prayer.

2. **Being Committed...**
   When we joined Catholic Daughters, we took a pledge and it reads, We (I) gladly accept membership, in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and through the presence, of the Spirit in our lives, dedicate ourselves, to the work of this organization, to foster unity and charity, among all men and women, through the love of God.

3. **Sharing One’s Time and Talent...**
   A Catholic Daughter is charity in action. She offers her time and talents for the betterment of mankind. She gives rather than receives and expects no ‘bouquets’ for her charitable deeds while doing the work of her Divine Master through His Blessed Mother.” Tools of the Trade – Author Unknown

4. **Leading by Example...**
   What better way to lead by example than through one’s actions.

5. **Volunteering...**
   Investigate an area in the community to see where your time and talents can be a benefit to others. Ask CDA and family members to join you.
“Ability is what you are capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it.”

– Winston Porter

6. Spreading Peace...
   Involve yourself with positivity and not negativity or gossip.

7. Encouraging One Another...
   If members are contributing to the organization for the good of the order, let them know it by saying thank you.

8. Promoting Togetherness...
   If a member misses two meetings reach out to see if the member is okay. Ask why they have not attended meetings. Bring the member up to date on the magnificent work members are doing in support of their local court, parish, and the community. Share with them they can make a difference and their thoughts and ideas are welcomed.

9. Promoting Positivity...
   Be positive in your tone when things are not going well. As one would say, do not add fuel to the fire.

10. Being Respectful...
    Remember when speaking to others, it is not what you say but how you say it.

11. Sharing Ideas and Suggestions...
    Do not be afraid to share ideas or make suggestions.

12. Sharing CDA History...
    Anytime there is an opportunity, share the CDA story. We have all heard that CDA is a well-kept secret.

13. Passing on State and National Information...
    It is imperative that state and national information is passed on to all members. How many times have you heard, oh, I did not get that information?

14. Following Protocol...
    We often hear the word protocol. Remember, protocol is especially important when it comes to CDA. We all must follow the chain of command. The guidelines have been put in place for a reason.

15. Bylaws and the Tools of the Trade...
    What better way to familiarize oneself than through reading and studying? Tools of Trade can be found on the National Website. The Bylaws can be purchased from the National store for $3.50.

16. Setting Goals...
    This is a form of planning for the future. When setting goals, make sure they are clear, precise, and measurable. When goals are clear in one’s mind, they will give an improved understanding. If challenging goals are chosen, make sure they are attainable.

17. Training vs. criticizing...
    If a member is assigned a task, and it does not meet one’s standard, share in completing the task and offer training for the next task.

18. Diversity...
    When it comes to diversity, all members can bring something to the table. It could be knowledge or experience, or it could be both. Take into consideration, the various personalities, cultures, and ages.

There is no better time than now to start sowing the seeds to ensure the life and longevity of our organization. As CDA leaders and members, our dedication, wisdom, love, and teamwork will forever keep the life of our organization moving in a positive direction.
I came from a family of nine children. Choosing life was never a question in my family. Mom and Dad chose life for all of us, and love came from that choice. We were poor, but we didn’t know it. So was everyone else. In Cajun Louisiana in the fifties and sixties, every Catholic family was a big family. When someone would see a big family, they would say, “They must be Catholic.” I am quite sure that some of you share this same story of growing up in a big family.

We were told that we had to love our siblings and we never questioned why. After all, they were our playmates. My twin sister and I were the “babies” of the family. We came nine years after the rest of the clan. We were quite spoiled, and life was a little easier for our family. We looked up to our older brothers and sisters.

I remember the first time I even heard the word abortion. It was in 1976, and I was a sophomore in high school. There was a freshman who was pregnant at our school. Her mom took her across the state line to have an abortion. The girls were all talking about it in gym class, and I was so embarrassed because I had to ask what it meant to have an abortion. I can remember feeling so sorry for the young girl. She came back to school after about a week, and no one ever said anything again. Every time I saw her, I wondered how she was coping with it. She continued to move on and seemed happy. I knew that it had to be hard on her, but I never spoke to her about it. I still wonder sometimes if she has regrets.

I went home and told Mom about it. We had a long talk about the birds and the bees. Mom thought I didn’t know about sex, but I had a pretty good education from the other girls at school. She also told my sister and me that if we ever, and that we had better not, find ourselves in that situation, we would not be having an abortion. It might just be me, but she watched over us even closer after that.

I got married the month after I graduated from high school. David and I wanted to start a family right away. We talked about having six children. God had another plan for us, because we had two children in one year, and it took a toll on my body. I had toxemia poisoning, and the doctor recommended that we consider having my tubes tied. He was going to ask us again the next morning before a c-section for our second child. When he left the room, I cried. I was only nineteen and David was twenty. We were still hoping for a big family. We prayed about it and chose not to end our chance for another child. The doctor was surprised but understood. Sadly, we were not thinking about the spiritual consequences of our choice. We just wanted more children and hoped that things might be different in a few years. We never gave up hope.

I started college when our two children were still babies.

How can we not choose life?

Connie Dronette
National Secretary/Treasurer
National Spiritual Enhancement Chairman
It was difficult, but it stopped me from thinking about having other children. I was just too busy! I remember women that I had classes with were getting abortions because they didn’t want to start their families until they graduated and got a respectable job. I loved my two babies at home and couldn’t understand their rationale. Before I graduated, I got pregnant again. I was so excited. The timing wasn’t the best, but I loved the thought of having another child. I had to sit out one semester but that was all right with me. Our third child would be our last. We were so happy that we were going to have a baby but sad that we would not be able to have the big family that we wanted. We wanted to continue choosing life but were told that it would be very dangerous. It was difficult to understand but we told ourselves that it was the only choice. I didn’t want to leave behind the three children we had. If we had the opportunity, we would not make the same decision. We did not trust in Jesus and for that we are truly sorry.

I became more compassionate toward women who could not have children. It was painful to stop after three children, so I could only imagine the pain of the women who couldn’t have any children. I had a few friends and a niece who could not have children, and I watched their struggles and prayed for them. It made me angry that there were women who were aborting their babies every day. I just didn’t understand why there were so many couples who prayed for children but couldn’t have them when there were so many women killing theirs.

We are called to support women who made the choice to have an abortion. Many women felt pressure and didn’t have anywhere to go. We have all made decisions we wish we would not have. God’s mercy is for everyone. The Pro-life Movement has made great strides in giving women other choices besides abortion. There are many pro-life advocacy groups that we can support monetarily and through prayer. The US Bishops call for the faithful to support pregnant women throughout their pregnancy and after they give birth.

In our country, the abortion industry has changed the vocabulary so that people would feel more comfortable with killing babies. They changed the term pro-abortion to pro-choice. The abortion industry is a big business in this country, and they don’t want to see it end. They started campaigns that said that terminating an unwanted pregnancy is a woman’s health care issue. But what about the baby’s health care? That is never considered. It was so wonderful to see the young people at the March for Life in Washington DC this year. Many carried signs stating that they belong to the Pro-life generation. Let us pray that this will soon be true with an end to Roe v Wade.

Does your Court promote life? Do you promote life? If not, what could you start doing? We are at a crossroads in our country. We need to be of help when we are called upon.

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When I received this assignment to write about Family and Extended Family Easter traditions, I was very excited. A million thoughts went through my head. I could look on lots of websites to find ideas that I had not thought of. One evening a light bulb went on in my head, and I knew it was the Holy Spirit, “Ask the members for their Easter Traditions.” At first, I was so concerned no one would be willing to take the time to share. Silly me for the doubt! I was overwhelmed with the wonderful, unique, and blessed traditions I started to read about. As you read them think of how you could use all, some or just a small part of these ideas and make up a new Easter tradition for your family. Without further ado, here they are.

We prepare for Easter by experiencing Lent and the Holy Triduum. As a Lenten observance, we limit our TV viewing to one hour a day. We add daily Mass to our worship schedule. We attend our Lenten Mission, and this year, I am leading a Lenten Book Study. We attend Mass on Holy Thursday, and then we make a Pilgrimage to seven local Catholic Churches to spend time in prayer before the Eucharist. This ends at midnight. On Friday, we attend Stations of the Cross, and then, on Saturday night, we attend the 8:00 PM Mass. Then and only then, are our hearts truly ready for the Resurrection.

Connie Dronette, National Secretary-Treasurer, Our Lady of LaSolette 1255, Sulphur, LA

Our children are long grown and gone away to live their lives; thus, it is just my husband and I in our home. On Easter Sunday, we traditionally attend Mass early in the morning. Then I prepare a lovely Easter dinner with lamb roast as the main entrée. Other than that, we just enjoy the day and at some time, give thanks for the gift of our faith, family, and friends.

Elaine Sluti, Court St James #2007, Kearney, NE

As far back as I can recall, my mom would begin preparing our traditional Italian Easter feast on Good Friday, all the while, fasting. She only made these dishes for Easter, which made them exceptionally delicious! As I got older, my mom would teach me the recipes, and I was anxious to learn and to assist. We would begin early on Good Friday mornings, making the different doughs for our family’s meat pie called “Pizza Gaina” and our sweet pie called “Easter Pie,” all while listening to our favorite Italian music. There was plenty of chopping and mixing, but mostly it was a time of bonding with my mom. She would share stories about my grandmother and how she taught my mom how to prepare these family specialties. We would be preparing, our stomachs growling, the delicious aromas penetrating the house, but never losing sight of what this day was truly about. At 3:00, we would stop and pray, reflecting on Jesus and His final hour. To this day, Good Friday, as somber as it is in our faith, always brings back my fondest memories spent with my mom. I continue with this tradition, but it has not been the same since my mom passed away twelve years ago, but what a beautiful legacy she left me with! Our Easter dinner was truly a feast to behold!

Louise Daconta, Regent Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park, NY

Our children are long grown and gone away to live their lives; thus, it is just my husband and I in our home. On Easter Sunday, we traditionally attend Mass early in the morning. Then I prepare a lovely Easter dinner with lamb roast as the main entrée. Other than that, we just enjoy the day and at some time, give thanks for the gift of our faith, family, and friends.

Elaine Sluti, Court St James #2007, Kearney, NE

We celebrate Good Friday by doing a 12 mile walk with our church parish. We have been doing this for more than 15 years. We stop along the way and read a station, then someone gives a personal witness. This involves young and old alike. It is such a spiritual and uplifting gathering to honor our Lord’s passion.

Dawn Fortenberry, National Director, LA
Easter Traditions in the Zambello Family, maiden name for Helene Shepard and Joan Oram, included going to Mass, saying the Rosary, and eating more fish than usual. On Holy Thursday we would visit three Churches in the area where the Blessed Sacrament was in the Repository. Good Friday we did the Way of the Cross. Holy Saturday before the Easter Vigil we would help make Italian Easter Pies. This was the highlight after the forty days of Lent. The sausage and cheese pies were only made at Easter Time. We would help roll the dough, cut cheese and Italian sausage into tiny pieces, mixing them with ricotta and eggs. The mixture was placed in the dough and covered like a pie. Mom would slit a little cross in the middle of the top dough. We would make the sign of the cross. It was then baked until golden brown. We could not eat the pie until Easter Sunday. We called them Mom’s Easter Pies. It was many years later that we found out that it was the traditional Italian Easter Pie called Pizza Rustica. We have fond memories of those days.

Past National Regent, Helene Shepard, Court Margaret Mary # 768, Monroe, NY

We always had an Easter tree. We’d find a big, beautiful branch. (I loved finding a branch from a tree blossoming/budding or off a willow tree.) We made ornaments one year with the families in our Little Flower Catholic Girls Group. Each family took a symbol of Easter and made ten or so. Then every family got one of each symbol to take home. I’ve added to the branch, lights, and handmade glass eggs that we bought in Germany or other egg ornaments my children have made. We did this when we were stationed overseas with the USAF. It’s wonderful to pull out ornaments every year and remember our faith-family around the world. We also did it with Christmas ornaments. Our family made the manger for that one. We just used cardboard, straw, and pieces of fabric wrapped around a dowel. Another family used a CD and yarn to make a cute lamb.

Elizabeth Plemel-Scott, Court Holy Cross #2748, West Fargo ND

I am thinking back to when I was in grade school going to a one-room country school. Our teacher said that the Easter bunny was out on the playground hiding Easter eggs. So, we students needed to be very quiet, hiding in the boot room at the school. I was peeking through the keyhole of the door, and I can remember excitedly yelling, ‘I see the Easter bunny. He is so big.” That experience has always been in my memory, so it really left an impression.

On Holy Saturday, many years ago, my husband and I were so proud and happy to be involved with two of our nieces and a nephew who received their First Holy Communion. All the family was together. Wonderful memories because some family members have already passed on. There is nothing more special than having the family together, especially at these kinds of celebrations.

Marlene Meyer, Regent Court St. Catherine Laboure #1802, Verdigre, NE

My mom would make an angel food cake from scratch, frost it with real boiled frosting tinted pink and covered in maraschino cherry halves. It was so pretty and tasted so good!!!!!!!

Betty Fredericks, State Regent, Court 764, York, NE

Easter tradition at the Meduna household was chores in the morning before the kids woke up; we live on a farm. Back in the 70’s and 80’s, as soon as my husband Don got home, the kids would get to search for Easter eggs before church. We would also take a cake, homemade roll, and any other desserts to church to be blessed. Then we’d come back home and have family dinner with grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins. Now that our children are older, they are carrying on the same tradition of Easter egg hunt before church. My oldest son does chores before their egg hunt. Then all of our children drive to the farm to have Easter dinner, after they go to their church for Easter services.

Kim Meduna, 1st Vice Regent, Nebraska State Court, Colon, NE

Several years ago, Tom and I were asked to help maintain the plots for unborn children in our local church. Every Easter we place lilies, plastic eggs, bunnies, or jellybeans at the gravesites. (The deer love jellybeans.) We say a prayer for all these poor darlings that our resurrected Savior and His Mother Mary hold them tightly in their arms and raise the hearts of their families in hope and love.

Patricia Cooney, Court St Ann Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville, NY

CATHOLICDAUGHTERS.ORG
I love attending the Holy Thursday service. The washing of the feet is so Christ-like in my heart: washing others where the pressures of our daily lives feel heavy at times, it’s such a gift to be able to humbly offer to clean the feet and soothe the soul of our aching hearts for Jesus. Our family fasts on Good Friday and attends service in the afternoon. Mindful of the impact of Jesus’ death, we are often quiet (and YOU know how difficult that is for me!) for much of the day. (When our kids were little, we spent the late afternoon decorating eggs to share at our family gatherings.) We often would have grilled cheese and tomato soup (or sometimes even Oyster Stew) for the evening meal. Then we’d watch The Passion together.

Saturday is spent as a family day. Over the years, I have had the privilege of being an RCIA sponsor for those wishing to join the Catholic Church. The evening service really signifies our willingness to surrender to God and serve the Lord. After all, if Jesus was able to die for our sins, how can we deny our faith? Easter Sunday is a day of rejoicing! We attend Mass together as a family and celebrate our beautiful Risen Savior! What a gift that we are able to share with each other and the world evangelizing the words Jesus gave us. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Colleen Kocer Peplinski, Regent, Ct. Winona #191, MN

Growing up, our family was “money poor” — poor enough that we did not spend money on Easter baskets. We took our shirts off and made “nests” on the table. All four of us. Then, we took baths and went to bed. In the morning, we woke to some wonderful Easter eggs and then dressed in our Sunday best, including hats, to go to church and then spend the day with our cousins. This is one of my favorite memories. It has helped me realize how hard my parents worked to give us a wonderful childhood.

Elaine Garry, St Thomas Church, Madison, SD

Our first born was allergic to chocolate and eggs. He had three sisters. After donning our “new spring clothes” and attending an early Mass, we came home to find what the Easter Bunny had hidden: baskets of jelly beans and fruit - one got a whole pineapple, one a whole coconut, and of course, apples, oranges, grapes, and bananas, and jelly beans. Only the Easter Bunny could afford real pineapple or coconut in its shell!

Alice Brancich, Winona Court #191, Winona, MN

Participating in the rich liturgical celebration of the Triduum, in our small parish in Davey, NE, is my most favorite Easter tradition. Seeing the family Easter Egg Hunt continued by the next generation is refreshing, hilarious, exhausting, and a favorite tradition.

Marty Minchow, Ct. Our Lady of Peace #1956, Wahoo, NE

Easter is a joyous family celebration which includes rich and plentiful foods not eaten during Lent! We participate in a local “Bohemian” Mardi Gras before Ash Wednesday each year. I often write Ukrainian eggs as part of the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. Of course, we have a traditional egg hunt as well.

Jo Fujan, Regent Court #1956 Our Lady of Peace, Wahoo, NE

We have an ADULT EASTER HUNT. I buy the small bottles of liquor ($1- $2 each) and wrap each one in Easter basket cellophane and tie it with curly ribbon. Then I hide them outside. We’ve done this hunt at night with flashlights which made it even more challenging and fun!

Karen St John, Ct. Ave Maria #832, Kings Park, NY
For over 40 years, on the afternoon of Holy Saturday, my parents welcomed the families of their 11 children into their home. Through the years the family grew from 13 to over 110. For the gathering we set up tables in the garage and watched as the young children played games and colored their Easter candy bags, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Easter bunny. Then they were let loose to fill their bags with the candy the Easter bunny scattered throughout the yard. After dinner we walked to our church a block away and attended the Holy Saturday services. This year will be different - both Dad and Mom died in 2021, and our beautiful church closed and is now a historic landmark. I am truly blessed to have 10 siblings who are faithful Catholics, and we truly love each other because of the love of our great parents. Dad died of a broken heart two months after Mom went to her eternal home. My Mom was a CDA member for over 65 years, and both of my grandmothers were Catholic Daughters.

Sherry Wittrock, Court Mary Queen of Peace #2423, Omaha, NE

I love having the big family (40+) for Easter dinner. Before dinner, we pray and many tell what they are thankful for. After dinner we have many age-appropriate Easter egg hunts, pinatas, card playing, games and much socializing. I love Easter.

Gloria Ouarda-Simonson

On Good Friday from noon to 3 PM, our family spends time in silence - no screen time (e.g., computer, television) or talking, reflecting on the suffering and death of our Lord. Afterwards, we attend the service of Good Friday at our local parish.

Margaret Gall, CDA, Court St. Charles #1791, St. Charles, MN

Coming from an Italian family, our Easter celebrations used to be much larger, but since my grandmother’s generation is completely gone as well as my mother’s generation, I now celebrate with my sister and her family for dinner. My Easter season consists of celebrating the Triduum and attending Mass on Holy Thursday, Good Friday services and either the Easter Vigil or Mass on Easter morning. I also try to make some kind of sacrifice for Lent by giving something up or doing more of something I normally don’t do or don’t do enough of.

Cindy Patriarca, Past Regent, Court Queen of Peace #2724, Foxboro, MA

For over 40 years, on the afternoon of Holy Saturday, my parents welcomed the families of their 11 children into their home. Through the years the family grew from 13 to over 110. For the gathering we set up tables in the garage and watched as the young children played games and colored their Easter candy bags, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Easter bunny. Then they were let loose to fill their bags with the candy the Easter bunny scattered throughout the yard. After dinner we walked to our church a block away and attended the Holy Saturday services. This year will be different - both Dad and Mom died in 2021, and our beautiful church closed and is now a historic landmark. I am truly blessed to have 10 siblings who are faithful Catholics, and we truly love each other because of the love of our great parents. Dad died of a broken heart two months after Mom went to her eternal home. My Mom was a CDA member for over 65 years, and both of my grandmothers were Catholic Daughters.

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Sue Judd, 2nd Vice State Regent, Ct. St. Gerard #2518, Valley City, ND

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Sue Judd, 2nd Vice State Regent, Ct. St. Gerard #2518, Valley City, ND
It is leading up to Easter observing Lenten practices that makes the day joyful. The white cross in our front yard is turned around to RISEN!! E-mails and texts state, HE IS RISEN! This is also the morning greeting to family. Greetings are then answered by HE IS RISEN INDEED!! Egg dyeing, blessing bread baking, decorating etc. are all done on Saturday in anticipation of Easter and celebrating the resurrection.

Carol Vigsnes, St Mary of the Hill, West Chicago, IL

Our family celebrates the Polish/Slavic tradition of blessing of the food and Swiecone (Easter Brunch). On Holy Saturday our family goes to the church with our Easter basket of food to be blessed by a priest. Usually sausage, ham, decorated eggs, butter in the shape of a lamb, rye bread, rolls, salt and pepper, kolaches, and sweet rolls are presented for the blessing. Each food has a special symbolism. The food is then served to the family members at the Easter table and shared during the Swiecone after Mass on Easter Sunday.

Bernadette Vlock, Court Mother Teresa #2451, Omaha, NE.

When I was little, our family celebrated Easter in an awe-inspiring way. I was around 7 years old and was made an angel lifted up high to take the crown off of the Statue of Blessed Virgin Mary when she meets Jesus on Easter dawn (Resurrection). When in high school, our family would go twice to Mass: to the vigil Mass and to the morning Easter Mass. Poor as we were back then, it was a treat to have a beef bone soup with veggies and rice for our Easter meal.

Vel Engen, Owatonna Court #1180, Owatonna, MN

After we get home from Good Friday Mass, we place a wooden cross on our fence in the front yard. We place a black covering completely over the cross, and it remains there for all to see until Sunday. Early Easter morning, we remove the black covering to reveal the cross covered with lilies, ribbons, brightly colored eggs, and butterflies. We then hide eggs in the yard, near the cross, for our six grandchildren. The Easter Egg Hunt every year is enjoyed by all, and the event is centered around the cross, celebrating the “True Meaning of Easter.” As an interesting aside... one year I was doing lawn work and a passerby (We live on a very busy state highway.) asked to take a photo. She said something like - it’s nice to know that not everyone has forgotten what Easter is really all about! BONUS

Valorie Trost, Court St Bernard’s #787, Saranac Lake, NY

We do the traditional Easter egg hunt. Last year, we had a double Easter egg hunt: one in our family’s yard and one in my 95-year-old Mom’s front yard so she could watch out her front picture window all the little great grandchildren (13) and her big grandchildren (6) hunt for all the eggs. They each had to hunt for a golden egg in addition to all the others, and of course they had to help Mimi (one of her nicknames) hunt for hers as she could point them out if they missed any. Our Catholic Daughter Family Court filled plastic eggs with a spiritual Easter message along with some treats and delivered them to Hillcrest Senior Living, Clearwood Group Home, Northwood Group Home, and Sunview/Sunset Court residents.

Bev Philion, Court St. Cecilia #2025, Red Lake Falls, MN

Our tradition in our family was to make a round loaf of bread with a braided cross baked on the top with a circle in the right corner of the cross representing the Crown of Thorns. During dinner all the married couples had to share a boiled egg for unity. We also had poppyseed, apricot, prune, and nut bread for snacks. Recipes are still handed down from generations ago.

Kathleen Olson, Court Santa Maria #236, IL

It is leading up to Easter observing Lenten practices that makes the day joyful. The white cross in our front yard is turned around to RISEN!! E-mails and texts state, HE IS RISEN! This is also the morning greeting to family. Greetings are then answered by HE IS RISEN INDEED!! Egg dyeing, blessing bread baking, decorating etc. are all done on Saturday in anticipation of Easter and celebrating the resurrection.

Carol Vigsnes, St Mary of the Hill, West Chicago, IL
Our family has always celebrated Easter by attending Easter Vigil Mass. I went through RCIA and that's when I was welcomed into full communion with the Church. It's my other anniversary! In fact, this year will be my 30th anniversary as a Catholic!

Our family has been really good about attending this Mass even though it is often lengthy, and we continue the tradition of welcoming new members of the Church.

Missy Hermes, Court St. Cabrini #1466, Fergus Falls, MN

Each year grandmother baked the lamb cake to remind the family about the “Lamb of God who took away our sins” through His horrible death on the Cross. Before the cake was cut, the words of “Agnes Dei” were prayed by the assembled family - Grandmother, Grandson and Son.

Bernice Lansing, Court La Crosse #1183, La Crosse, WI

My family enjoys putting foods for Easter into a basket and bringing it to a Catholic Church to be blessed by the priest. This is done on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. In addition, during Lent, we bring a large Palm Cross to the cemetery grave of a dear, missed family member. On Easter Sunday, we bring Easter Joy to the grave consisting of flowers, balloon, and a bunny. Easter dinner with family consists of ham or lamb. The ham is decorated with cloves and pineapples. Slivers of garlic are placed throughout the lamb with fresh herbs such as Thyme and Rosemary slathered in olive oil. Austrian carrots are always cooked on Easter. This is a carrot baked with horseradish. My Oplatek, was sadly forgotten in packing to be with family at Christmas. Instead on Easter, we will break this wafer and offer it to each other. This is a Polish Christmas dinner tradition of prayer and breaking bread with each other. My Polish grandmother taught me as a child, and I have passed it on to my family. This Polish wafer representing Love, Caring, Forgiveness, and Friendship will be just as meaningful on Easter for my immediate and extended family plus friends present.

Laura Horn, Court Margaret Mary #768, Monroe, NY

My aunt always makes an Easter egg piñata (a balloon with papier mache) The kids line up from youngest (even as young as 6 months old) to oldest and swing!

Allison Buske, Court Holy Cross, West Fargo, ND

First, it’s Mass in the morning. Then we get together for a traditional Easter ham noon meal with all the fixings....and then some! When dishes are done, and before all the guys fall asleep from food coma, we have a big Easter egg hunt. Finding Easter eggs is fun, but the best part is that there is also a “golden egg” that is hidden extra hard. Whoever finds the golden egg gets to go on a date with Grandpa and Grandma....all to themselves. We go to supper and a ballgame, hockey game, or whatever the finder desires.

Joan Joens, Court Madonna #839, Wilmont, MN

Our Easter traditions include our annual paper drive for Lourdes Central Catholic School. We host a Lenten retreat with one of our local priests. We help with our 2nd graders 1st Confession, by helping provide a gift that our pastor picks out.

Barb Stukenholtz, Emmanuel 1122, Nebraska City, NE

Our family has always celebrated Easter by attending Easter Vigil Mass. I went through RCIA and that’s when I was welcomed into full communion with the Church. It’s my other anniversary! In fact, this year will be my 30th anniversary as a Catholic! Our family has been really good about attending this Mass even though it is often lengthy, and we continue the tradition of welcoming new members of the Church.

Missy Hermes, Court St. Cabrini #1466, Fergus Falls, MN
The Confirmation Candidates at St. Rose of Lima Parish lead the Parish Triduum Celebration every year at our local Parish. On Holy Thursday the Confirmation boys and their Sponsors assist the Parish Priest with the re-enactment of the Last Supper and the Confirmation girl’s lector and lead the Parish in the Rosary. After Mass, the boys who serve as Knights of the Altar assist the Parish Priest in removing the Blessed Sacrament from the Church to rest in the side Chapel until Easter. The boys remain in the Chapel throughout the night beside the Monstrance until midnight in remembrance of the Apostles remaining with Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane. The next day, Good Friday, the parishioners participate in a 10-mile pilgrimage to the Mission Church of Our Lady of Refuge. At 3 PM the Confirmation Candidates re-enact the Stations of the Cross starting three blocks from the Church ending on the Church steps where Jesus is Crucified and then laid in the Sepulcher. Parishioners are then invited to hammer a nail into a wooden cross to signify how our sins re-crucify Jesus each time we sin. At that time the parishioners enter the stripped Church to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet led by the Confirmation Candidates. At the end of the Chaplet the Priest and the Knights enter the Church prostrating themselves before the Altar all falling 4 times in remembrance of the times Jesus fell on his way to be crucified. The Parish Priest than reads the Passion and after, all are invited to venerate the Wooden Cross. On Holy Saturday the Confirmation Candidates serve for the Mass as Lectors and Knights of the Altar. This solemn Mass ends the Triduum and enters the Parish into the Easter Season. This has been a tradition in our local Parish for many years.

JoAnn Velasquez, Recording Secretary, Santa Rosa de Lima Court #2276, Santa Rosa, NM

After Easter dinner we have an egg hunt in the barn. The two dozen plastic eggs are filled with little treasures from the local drug store that has all sorts of prizes for young and old. (Chap stick, small bottle of hand sanitizer, chocolate, small bottle of hand cream, hair ties. When you get an egg that has something you don’t want, you switch with someone who wants the item.

Virginia Grausso, Court #375, Our Lady of Victory, Huntington NY

Our family tradition starts with a family baking day, usually during Holy Week. Using 45 to 50 lbs. of flour, 12 to 14 dozen eggs, lots of sugar and other ingredients, we bake Italian Easter Bread using my maternal grandmother’s recipe. The list of recipients is long, and each “doll” and “ring” is topped with an uncooked egg that has a cross of dough placed on top before it is baked. The egg represents new life, and the cross represents Christ, thus the Resurrection. Even the men in the family get involved. It is a true family event. The baked goods are usually delivered to friends, family, and neighbors on Holy Saturday in the afternoon.

Joanne Tomassi, Past National Regent, St. Pete Beach, FL

My family is polish. We celebrate the Triduum. We do not eat meat on Good Friday or until noon on Good Saturday. On Good Saturday, we take our basket of food to be blessed at our Catholic church. The basket is covered with a white linen cloth. The basket can contain any items, but there are seven items that must be included. All reflect the Easter season, such as eggs as a symbol of new life. The basket also includes a small round half-rye bread with a small cross on top, pork, or veal, ham, sausage, a butter lamb, radishes and salt and pepper which are mixed in a shot glass. Some of these items, such as the bread and/or butter lamb can be found on-line.

Doris Thomas

Our family does some Easter traditions. We go to church services together, dye Easter eggs generally on Good Friday, and they are hidden in the house on Saturday night along with an Easter basket for each child and the hunt is on for Easter morning.

Mary Baer, State Regent, North Dakota

After Easter dinner we have an egg hunt in the barn. The two dozen plastic eggs are filled with little treasures from the local drug store that has all sorts of prizes for young and old. (Chap stick, small bottle of hand sanitizer, chocolate, small bottle of hand cream, hair ties. When you get an egg that has something you don’t want, you switch with someone who wants the item.

Virginia Grausso, Court #375, Our Lady of Victory, Huntington NY
Our family customs for Easter have been the same for many years. Most of my kids and grandkids come to Pinckneyville. As many family members as possible, go to Mass. Lunch and Easter egg hunt at my house. They enjoy playing outside until we break for supper then home. Before lunch one of the grandkids reads the prayer I have for Easter all ages of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. During our family prayer we are so thankful for family.

Carol Isaacs, Court Ave Maria #1386, IL

On Holy Saturday, we color eggs for Easter Sunday’s family dinner. Using hot wax and dyes, we make traditional Lithuanian designs on the eggs. The display of eggs on the table is very colorful.

Barbara Miller, Nativity of Our Lady #931, NY

We get together and have a ham dinner. Dan (husband) and I color eggs, and everyone takes their eggs home.

Diane MacEwan, Nativity of Our Lady #931, NY

During the meatless days of Lent when we bake, eat omelets, egg bakes and fried egg sandwiches, we blow the eggs out of the shells through a hole on each end, rinse out the shells, dye them, thread a piece of string through them, and after the Easter Vigil Mass, drive clandestinely around town and hang a dozen shells on a tree in the yards of elderly persons and/or shut-ins...a nice surprise on Easter morning. This idea was originally my mother’s. She began making memories with us when we were very young, running quietly, yet excitedly, in the dark to hang the eggs in the trees. She was an amazing daughter, wife, and mother. I’m happy and comforted to have so many special memories.

Katherine Kath, Court #1916, Detroit Lakes, MN

Our food basket is blessed on Holy Saturday (Swieconka). Sunday table is dressed in white linens and pussy willows. Brunch includes homemade borscht, polish sausage, ham, veal, horseradish, bread and eggs. Dessert is homemade placzek and Easter candy. Eggshells, crumbs, napkins and wrappers are saved and burned since they have been blessed.

Dawn Rejewski, Nativity of Our Lady #931, NY

We have the traditional ham dinner with a side of manicotti. We always have asparagus (Spring veggie), fried broccoli, and Angel eggs (less spicy than deviled). Dessert is homemade cannoli.

Sandra Fortunato, Nativity of Our Lady #931, NY

Easter Egg Hunt was a tradition I started when my children were small. I went from hiding them in plain sight to finding unique hiding spots as they got older. This tradition has continued as they have grown into young adults, but now with the addition of grandchildren will start all over again by hiding them in plain sight. Hope my children and grandchildren will continue with this tradition in the years to come.

Marilyn Lowery, Court Mary Immaculate #2182, Omaha, NE

I make pisanki (Polish/Ukrainian decorated eggs) with my daughter in Lent. These are for decoration only and not edible. We use traditional methods and symbols to tell the Easter story. I started adding a small Babcia figure (Polish Grandma) to each egg as a tribute to my deceased mother and all my Polish ancestors.

Angie Poulson, First Vice State Regent, Court Champaign County #1070, IL

On Holy Saturday, we color eggs for Easter Sunday’s family dinner. Using hot wax and dyes, we make traditional Lithuanian designs on the eggs. The display of eggs on the table is very colorful.

Barbara Miller, Nativity of Our Lady #931, NY
Calling all Juniors!

Ivone Da Silviera
National Director
JCDA National Chairman

Attention Juniors! YOU ARE INVITED to a fun-filled weekend in Orlando, Florida, where JCDA Magic begins. Join us for a wonderful weekend of sisterhood, friendship, praying, and, more importantly, creating memories just like the CDA members experience when they meet at their National Conventions. (A little reminder for CDA members, don’t forget the National Convention will be in Puerto Rico. We are anxiously waiting for you here in July, 2022.)

Dreams really do come true, so help me unite our JCDA courts for a Magical weekend full of fun, friendship and creating memories from NORTH, SOUTH, EAST and WEST of the United States and its territories. JCDA leaders and members are needed to help me gather all JCDA members this summer with God’s blessing. I am counting on each one of you to help us make history!!!

When I go back in time, the memories that I have as a JCDA member always bring a smile to my face. It was the beginning for me to embrace God and become a woman of service to others. Those are the memories that I want to share with our next generation of JCDA members. An example of this is when I was a young JCDA member, we used to have JCDA State Conventions in Puerto Rico, which is my home. In those days, some JCDA Courts would visit Conventions in other States. One example was the Texas JCDA State Court attended the Puerto Rico State JCDA Convention. We would interact learning from each other, making us better JCDA members just as we now do as CDA members. This was confirmed by my mom, Manuela, when she was Puerto Rico’s JCDA Chairman. As I said before, those were amazing years for JCDA. We even had a National JCDA Convention. I know because my sister Yolanda attended and became the JCDA National 1st Vice President at that Convention. I am sure there are others who can share their experiences as a member or board member. Although we can't go back in time, by working together, we can reunite all JCDA for a weekend this summer. Let’s bring smiles to our girls with marvelous memories that they will cherish in their heart forever.

As your JCDA chairperson, I would like our JCDA Courts to experience all those memories that I made as a JCDA member. I want each member to be able to have the opportunity of attending our reunion, because it will be the beginning of new friendships from other parts of our nation. It will help to strengthen our Faith and show all of us how to serve God and walk in his footsteps. We will also have time to go to a theme park. In other words, a fun and learning experience of love with others. I know this will happen because a couple of years ago, I had the honor of attending a JCDA Texas State Convention with our Puerto Rico JCDA Court, and the memories that they made were amazing. The smiles on their faces were evidence of true joy which brought happiness to my heart because of a dream becoming a reality. They had the time of their lives. Now, imagine if all JCDA members could be in Orlando this June for a weekend, making memories not only with your

Calling all Juniors: Don't Miss the June Pray and Play Weekend in Orlando!

Save the Dates: June 24-26, 2022
court or state but with every state and territory that has a JCDA Court. How marvelous it would be.

So, help us to embrace our JCDA history by reuniting all our JCDA members again by sharing the magical memories of faith, fun and memories with the current JCDA membership at this gathering.

Leaders, I realize these are still difficult times, but please try to start organizing fund raising activities so all of your members can attend. Don’t hesitate to ask your senior CDA court to help and join you in raising funds or getting sponsors. This method worked for Puerto Rico’s JCDA Court when they attended the Texas convention a couple of years ago. Please, don’t allow money to be the obstacle to attending. Think outside the box. There are diverse ways to get there. As the saying goes, “God helps those who help themselves.” “Dios dice ayúdate que yo te ayudar”.

Let us get ready to make memories this summer.

Don’t forget, it will be amazing to play and pray together, making beautiful memories.

Again, all JCDA members are invited to join on June 24-26, 2022 at:
Embassy Suites by Hilton
International Drive Convention Center
8978 International Drive
Orlando, Florida

More details and registration information coming soon! If you would like to be added to a mailing list for more information regarding this exciting JCDA memory making weekend, please email me at: ivone_ceip@yahoo.com

Together we can help our JCDA members on their faith-filled journey to their CDA membership in the future.

Let us make Marvelous Memories. See you in June 2022. ✨

I have always thought and said that ‘experience is the best teacher.’ If my children have heard it once, they’ve heard it a million times. But a quote from Mr. Albert Einstein states, “I never teach my pupils; I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.” Maybe it can be said that both thoughts are along the same lines. Experience is a condition that students and some adults find themselves in from time to time. We’d like to think that the Catholic Daughters Education Contests and Scholarships available to many are that ‘condition’ to learn more or to express themselves through the many categories and divisions available to them. Some have chosen writing and poetry while others express themselves in drawings or catching a moment with a camera that doesn’t need words to explain the theme. And then there are those whose musical talent comes flowing forth as a second language to express themselves or the theme chosen for the contest. Those ‘conditions or experiences’ are rewarded not only by winning a contest with the Catholic Daughters but can be a reward of satisfaction to them. Accomplishments or talents come in big and small ways. As Catholic Daughters we are fortunate to be a part of the lives of students and adults to express themselves with their God-given abilities.

While Catholic Daughters are proud to be involved with the education contests, we are also proud to help our Campus Court members who may be in need of a scholarship. Every Campus court CDA member is eligible to compete for a Campus Court scholarship, and all undergraduates are encouraged to participate in the Fr. Bachmann Scholarships available to them through the Catholic Daughters. Scholarships can be, and most of the time are, most welcomed in today’s world of tighter economic conditions. So, be willing to share your love through the CDA and welcome those Campus Court members or the undergraduates that you may know who are not CDA members to the experience of receiving a scholarship and who one day may become a CDA member. ✨
BYLAWS

What They are and Why We Need Them!

WHAT ARE BYLAWS?
Bylaws are an outline of the structure of an organization. They, alone, do not make an effective organization, but they are necessary to enable an organization to function properly.

WHY DO WE NEED BYLAWS?
Members can determine what rules they agree on and abide by while allowing them to make changes as the organization grows. Bylaws must be adhered to by the membership and not altered by any officer to fit a specific situation.

With the 2022 National Convention coming up in July, I encourage all, especially the delegates, to read the current bylaws of our organization so that she will be able to make intelligent decisions when voting. There will be amendments to the current bylaws presented during the convention on which a delegate can express an opinion and cast a vote. With that said, please study the proper procedure for making motions and amending motions in Robert’s Rules of Order. Knowledge of proper procedures will expedite the meeting proceedings.

I suggest delegates purchase Robert’s Rules of Order in Brief (3rd Edition) to bring with them to the convention as it gives examples of proper wording for making and amending motions, obtaining the floor, etc. Or, if you want the real deal, purchase the BIG Book. See ya in July in Puerto Rico on the convention floor making and amending motions. 🌹

Carolyn Malik
National Director
National Bylaws Chairman
The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their 2021 Fall General Assembly in Baltimore from 15-18 November. This was the first in-person meeting of the full body of bishops since November 2019.

The public part of the meeting, following regional and committee meetings held by the bishops themselves, began with the Opening Mass held at Baltimore’s historic Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the first cathedral in the USA. Archbishop Gomez, President of the USCCB, served as the principal celebrant, and Archbishop Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore as the homilist. In the homily, we learned of the history of the provincial and plenary councils held in Baltimore that led to the formation of the body of US bishops that we know today as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He noted that the early meetings, though they took place in times very different from our own, addressed issues with which we still struggle today: immigration, liturgical and catechetical matters, worker’s rights, the need for Catholic education, and the relationship of faith and culture in America. He then drew the parallel from these historical debates to today’s synodal Church, noting how the need to pray, listen, and dialogue are required to implement collaborative and inspired decisions. Their path must remain rooted in the received faith of the Church and prayer. A synodal Church does not take the way of popularity or of least resistance and must not avoid sensitive or painful issues, ensuring that the most vulnerable are not left behind when issues are selected for consideration.
The next morning, Tuesday, November 16, after Mass, everyone assembled in the meeting room where a beautiful slide of Our Lady of Guadeloupe and the title of the meeting was projected onto a large screen. The official observers were to the right of the assembly of bishops who were seated classroom style facing the stage.

After an Opening Prayer, Archbishop Jose Gomez called the Assembly to order. He introduced the bishops appointed since their last meeting and recognized those bishops who have newly reached senior status. The Assembly then prayed by name for those bishops who have died since the last gathering. The Chair then introduced the Apostolic Nuncio to the USA, Archbishop Christophe Pierre. This was followed by necessary meeting procedures: Approval of the Agenda that was accepted by voice vote; introduction of tellers who would be needed for written ballot voting; introduction of the parliamentarian; approval of the minutes of the last meeting (June 16-18, 2021 conducted via Zoom) approved by voice vote; and direction to the bound information reports everyone had received.

The Apostolic Nuncio to the USA, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, spoke about the importance of synodality in facing the challenges confronting the nation and the Church, in openness to the Holy Spirit. While remaining faithful to the living Tradition of the Church, synodality, which means walking together, must bring about true reform with concrete gestures involving the participation of the whole Church. He pointed out that synodality helps provide answers to the challenges and to the confrontation that is threatening to divide the US, and whose echoes are felt also in the Church. Speaking about the pro-life challenge, the Nuncio said “the Church must be unapologetically pro-life and must defend innocent human life and all vulnerable persons.” In this regard, the synodal approach would seek to understand better why people seek to end pregnancies and make choices against life and form a consensus with concrete strategies to build the culture of life and the civilization of love. Archbishop Pierre commended the initiative Walking with Moms in Need, which seeks to walk in the shoes of local expectant mothers and their children in order to meet their needs, stressing this is a synodal approach.

He next addressed reality vs. ideas saying, “Realities are more important than ideas,” and he stressed the practical Eucharistic experience of synodality. “We can have all the theological ideas about the Eucharist – and, of course, we need this – but none of these ideas compare with the reality of the Eucharistic Mystery, which needs to be discovered and rediscovered through the practical experience of the Church, living in communion, particularly in this time of pandemic.” He said, “We can become so concentrated upon the sacrality of forms of the liturgy that we miss the true encounter with His Real Presence.” He next said the Church needs to involve everyone in concrete action that mediates the presence of Christ in the human reality of our divided hurting world. According to the Archbishop, “The way this concrete action is actuated is through synodality.”

Synodality, he continued, is a way of living the faith in a permanent way in dioceses, parishes, the families, and in the peripheries, involving all Church members in the mission of evangelization. Pope Francis described synodality as “nothing other than the ‘journeying together’ of God’s flock along the paths of history towards the encounter with Christ the Lord,” which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. He then stated that synodality must be driven by God. Dialogue must have charity, conversion, truth, and salvation as the four dimensions of dialogue. “Our dialogue and our listening,” he said, must involve, not only talking among ourselves – bishops, clergy, religious, and laity – but also listening to God – listening to what the Spirit has to say.” The Church in the US needs this attentive listening now more than ever if she is to overcome the polarization afflicting the country. After being God-driven, synodality must be mission-driven. The synodal process should lead to missionary discipleship, whose model is the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Spirit, who is at the core of this ecclesial “walking together,” overshadowed her. Mary and the Spirit “journey together” from the Annunciation through Pentecost.

The President of the Conference, Archbishop Gomez said he saw many “challenging signs” as the country emerges from the pandemic – but also “signs of hope.” He called on American bishops to share “the beautiful story of Christ’s love for us, His dying and rising from the dead for us, and the hope He brings to our lives.” People are searching for God and are “willing to let themselves be found by God,” adding, “I believe they are ready to listen once again to the Word of truth and the Word of life. I think there are also people in our society – those who grew up without religion – who are ready to hear the Word for the first time.” “The Church exists to evangelize,” said Archbishop Gómez. “There is no other reason for the Church. To be a Christian is to be a missionary disciple.” That, he said, “is why the initiatives we have taken as a Conference of Bishops are absolutely vital.” Archbishop Gómez insisted that people are not saved through plans and programs, but only through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. “Our beautiful task,” Archbishop Gómez told his fellow Bishops in conclusion, “is to continue to tell the Catholic story, to reveal Jesus to our people – to place their hands in His hand
so they can walk by His light and follow Him to eternity, to the love that never ends.”

Following the report of the National Advisory Committee, a group that suggests topics for consideration to the Bishops Conference, the election for a General Secretary was held. Rev. Michael Fuller was elected to this important position.

Elections were held for the following positions: Treasurer-Elect with Bishop James F. Coccio selected and then for the chairmen of various committees: Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations - Bishop Earl Boyea; Divine Worship - Bishop Steven Lopes; Domestic Justice and Human Development – Archeparch Borys Gudziak; Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth - Bishop Robert Barron; and Migration - Bishop Mark Seitz. The next election was for three bishops to sit on the Board of Catholic Relief Services with Archbishop Timothy Broglio, Bishop Donald Hying, and Bishop Oscar Solis being selected.

Bishop Listecki then introduced a video from Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta who spoke about the revisions made to Book VI of the Code of Canon Law on Penal Sanctions in the Church. The presentation detailed the reasons for the changes made and where those changes could be found.

An amazing end of the day followed with the entrance of members of Orthodox bishops of the United States. Archbishop Elpidophoros, Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States spoke beautifully of the overtures to dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches. “Today, I am convinced, as I present myself in front of my brother hierarchs, that this dialogue of love, initiated by Pope Paul VI and Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras in 1964 in Jerusalem, continues with a particular density in this blessed country,” said Archbishop Elpidophoros. He quoted Patriarch Bartholomew’s recent address to the Ecumenical Reception at the National Council of Churches, where the Patriarch stated that a “dialogue of love” between the faiths was the future for the two churches, and that the 21st century “should become the century of the restoration of unity.”

The second day started after Mass with Morning Prayer. The day then proceeded with debate and vote on issues presented by committees the day prior:

Committee for Budget and Finance:

Through the USCCB’s Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines, the Conference exercises faithful, competent, and socially responsible stewardship in how it manages its financial resources. The updated guidelines were presented to the body of bishops and this action item was approved as was the budget for 2022. Presenting the proposed budget, they agreed that they were optimistic that the worst of the pandemic may be behind us but that they wished to remain cautious. They also resolved that they would evaluate investments in fossil fuels in an ongoing manner and not wait three years for the next specified evaluation.
Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People asked that they be authorized to begin a review of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young Adults in advance of the June 2025 mandated review date. The proposal was approved and noted it should also include wording for protection of vulnerable adults.

Committee on Canonical Affairs and Church Governance:

The Latin Church members voted to approve the revised National Statutes for the Catechumenate for use in the dioceses of the U.S. It was followed with a vote to approve the Estatutos Nacionales para el Catecumenado for use in the dioceses of the U.S. In addition, the Conference’s longstanding commitment to promote financial accountability in the pastoral governance of the diocesan bishop was affirmed through the Resolution on Diocesan Financial Reporting, which encourages the adoption of a voluntary financial reporting system by the dioceses as a means of offering further evidence of their compliance with canon law (Church law) pertaining to fiscal administration. Since its original passage in 2000, the resolution has been renewed by the bishops approximately every five years.

Cause for Beatification and Canonization:

By a voice vote, the bishops affirmed their support for the advancement of the causes of beatification and canonization for three lay individuals at the diocesan level: Charlene Marie Richards who died at the age of 12 and offered her sufferings for others, Auguste Robert Pelafigue who provided great service to the poor and was instrumental in promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart, and Joseph Dutton, who worked for 44 years with lepers in Hawaii and who started a home for boys, causing him to be a foster father for hundreds of boys in Hawaii. The bishops also noted their continuing prayer and work for the six African-American proposed saints. They suggested a prayerful petition to be carried out in dioceses this month for their cause as this is the month of Black Catholic History.

Committee on Divine Worship:

Each year, the USCCB publishes the Liturgical Calendar for the Dioceses of the United States of America which lists each day's celebration, rank, liturgical color, citations for the Lectionary for Mass, and Psalter cycle for the Liturgy of the Hours. The bishops approved the proposal to inscribe Saint Teresa of Calcutta as an optional memorial on September 5 with the explanation that when memorials are first proposed they are normally made optional rather than obligatory and that the wording of the Prayer was supplied by her Sisters. This optional memorial must be confirmed by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Next, The Latin Church members of the Conference voted to approve the translation by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) of Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery Outside Mass for use in the dioceses of the United States. Next, The Latin Church members of the Conference approved the revised English edition of the Order of the Christian Initiation of Adults. This was followed by approval of a revised Spanish edition of the Ritual para la Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos. These three documents would also need confirmation by the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

Committee on Doctrine:

The bishops discussed and approved a statement, The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church that is meant to be a reflection on the transformative beauty of the Eucharist that invites each of us into a deeper relationship with Christ.

Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis:

The bishops received an update on the Eucharistic revival initiative and voted on moving forward with a National Eucharistic Congress in the summer of 2024 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The bishops approved the national event that will be held from July 17-21, 2024. A timeline leading up to this event was presented for each year. The Mission is to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist and the Vision is a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed, and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist -and sent out in mission “for the life of the world.” Part II of the video of Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta continued with the presentation of the revisions to Book VI of the Code of Canon Law. This segment concentrated on listing the violations and penalties for abuse of youth and the vulnerable and misuse of diocesan funds.

The Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church, using a video with testimony from persons across the US representing many different cultures, led into the announcement of a gathering to be held of young adults June 23-26, 2022 in Chicago to celebrate the diversity of our US Church and the unity we experience through our common faith. Spurred by the 2018 Synod on Youth and fed by virtual meetings held to provide space for dialogue, the
Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth:
The introduction of a pastoral framework for Marriage and Family Life in the US, *Called to the Joy of Love*. This document provides guidelines for pastoral care with a framework of four pillars: Prayer, Formation, Accompaniment, and Advocacy with the aim to Educate, Encourage, and Engage. It is available in English and Spanish in hardcopy and is also on the USCCB website.

Following a break with ice cream (!) we heard the following presentations:

2021-2023 Synod of Bishops:
A video from Cardinal Grech explored the definition of synodality and the need for a synod on this process that aims for communion, participation, and mission. The upcoming 16th Ordinary General Assembly will work with the results of listening sessions held throughout the world at the parish level as well as from those who no longer attend church. It is necessary to cast a wide net: those not coming to church, the marginalized, those who have left the Church - an ecumenical reach is needed. Listen to the fears, affirm hopes, encourage local participation. Follow the model of Jesus Christ: Attentiveness, compassion, tenderness. See how to engage with others. It is essential to find out what everyone hopes for the Church. It calls for listening, praying, and discerning together. Encounter, discernment, and listening is the synodal path. There are three phases: Diocesan (with reports due in June 2022), continental, and international. Set up listening sessions in locations other than churches: homes, businesses, neighborhoods, have youth invite their unchurched friends.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development:
Started in 1970, Bishop O'Connell indicated that the CCHD has disbursed grants totaling 440 million dollars over the last 50 years. He noted that the Church's moral teachings are truly a gift to the world. A video followed showing the work and gratitude of some recipients. It is truly a grassroots Catholic work.

Catholic Relief Services:
Provides hope globally. The goal is that 3 million youth will be provided with life skills by 2030 around the world. 18,000 families have been helped and have become resilient with the provision of CRS tools in the past year. High School clubs have started to engage youth in this work and to provide a means of evangelizing our youth. Some examples of work accomplished in the past year, CRS has provided agricultural and health support in Afghanistan; in Ethiopia there are 6.3 million persons to feed; in the Sahel, programs to stimulate peace; in Guatemala and in the Cameroon, HIV/AIDS work; in El Salvador they are working on eradicating malaria. They work on providing food, water and vaccine equity. They have 6,700 employees in 1400 countries and provided 5.1 billion dollars in assistance in the past year. Their current slogan is Faith Knows No Bounds!

Catholic Charities USA:
Sister Donna Markham, CEO, noted that Catholic Charities is number two in the provision of comprehensive social services in the USA, second only to the federal government. In the past year, 615,000 received shelter; 337,000 migrants and refugees were re-settled; 12 million were fed; 2 million received COVID-related assistance; 18,000 families were helped; 40,000 found employment; and 500,000 found mental health counseling. There is an official estimate of 580,000 homeless in the US and it is likely double that. Unused church-owned buildings can be converted to help with this.

Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC):
There are 441 organizations linked via CLINIC resulting in thousands receiving legal assistance.

Committee on Migration:
The document produced, *Immigration Reform and the Church’s Voice*, notes the need for Advocacy (facts are provided in the document to assist with advocacy), Prayer, and Accompaniment (I'm here for you).

The day adjourned at 6:30PM and the public sessions ended. As always, it was an honor to attend and it should be noted that these sessions were well-organized, seamless in presentation, and uplifting in the synodal way that the bishops worked together, honoring differing views and then reaching consensus. It is always quite an experience to look out upon the Assembly of more than 230 bishops gathered together in prayer and work on behalf of the Catholic Church in our USA. The breaks, lunches, and encounters in hallways provided opportunities for conversation with the bishops and it was interesting that many of our bishops and cardinals actually sought us out to ask our opinion and observations on the proceedings. May God continue to bless our bishops and our Catholic Church in the United States of America.
ONE-HUNDRED YEARS FOR SOUTH DAKOTA COURT
Court St. Agnes #618, Brookings, South Dakota, celebrated its 100th Anniversary on September 18, 2021. Seen gathered for a photo at the celebration, front, South Dakota Second Vice State Regent JoAnn Hoffman; Regent and First Vice State Regent Michele Sage; State Regent Judy Konechne; Fr. Russell Homic; and Marcia Williams. Second row, left to right, Peggy Brown, Dorothy Sayre, Cheryl Austreim, Pat Sloan, Gloria Bauske, Leslie Williams, Mitzi Boulay, and State Treasurer Carolyn Downs. Third row, left to right, Sally Gramm, Charlotte Couser, Jan Seeley, Donna Doss, Mary Ellen Aamot, Vi Dorn, and State Secretary Lynda Steichen. Fourth row, left to right, Barb Mielke, Judy Duffy, Connie Hageman, Bea Kubal, Kathy Gilpin and Rose Neal.

NEW YORK COURT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS
Court St. Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw, New York, celebrated its 100th anniversary with much joy and spirituality for the special occasion. In the photo, New York State Regent Theresa Duran, left, with Past National Director and Charter Regent Susan Hicks, who received her 40-year pin during the celebration.

WISCONSIN COURT CELEBRATES 13 YEARS
Court Mazzuchelli #2906, Monroe, Wisconsin, celebrated its 13th anniversary. In the photo are Court Regent Vicki Keilhauer, left, with Past National Director and Charter Regent Susan Hicks, who received her 40-year pin during the celebration.

ONE-HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR NEBRASKA COURT
Court San Salvador #576, David City, Nebraska, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of their court. Members attended Mass as a group at Saint Mary’s Catholic Church in David City followed by a reception and banquet. Celebrants can be seen standing for a photo in the beautiful church.
TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS
Members of Court Our Mother of Peace and Unity #2487, Livingston, Texas, celebrated their 20th Anniversary with Mass and a reception at the Family Center. Court members in white pause for a picture on their special day.

SOUTH DAKOTA COURT CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL
The 100th Anniversary Celebration of Court St. Rita #534, Watertown, South Dakota, took place on August 29, 2021. Celebrants in the photo are, front row, seated, left to right, court officers Mary Erickson, Karen Moss, Linda Mitzel and Pat McGregor. Second row, left to right, Lee Corey, South Dakota State Officers Lynda Steichen, Michele Sage, Judy Konechne, JoAnn Hoffman and Carolyn Downs. Third row, left to right, Helen Gruba, Sandy Kerkvliet, Past State Secretary Deborah Burdick, Collette VanWell, Pat Walder, Dianne Thyen, District Deputy Janet Lynch, Rita Chase and Maxine German. Fourth row, left to right, Elaine Peterson, Rose Steen, Carla McGregor, Past State Regent Brenda Anderson, Clarice VanWell, Gerri DeBoer, Chris Berger, Jo Vitek, Sherry Sellers, Loretta Tobin and Patty Foley.

LOUISIANA COURT CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY ON CDA SUNDAY
Court St. George #1960, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, celebrated its 55th Anniversary on CDA Sunday, October 17, 2021. Members attended Mass together then met for a small reception. In the photo, court members gather at the celebration.

TEN WONDERFUL YEARS FOR TEXAS COURT
Members of Court St. Ann Mother of Mary #2649, La Vernia, Texas, celebrated their 10th Anniversary at their September 9 meeting. Among the joyful faces in the picture are charter members Bernice Niemietz, Margie O’Rear, and Andrea Garza.
LOUISIANA COURT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS
Court Lady of the Lake #695, Lake Charles, Louisiana, celebrated its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, November 7, with a Mass at the Cathedral which members attended as a group. Bishop Glen Provost was the main celebrant. Father Samuel Bond was Master of Ceremonies, and Court Chaplain Father Rommel Tolentino was a concelebrant. After Mass, all gathered at the Cathedral’s Ave Maria Hall for a wonderful banquet meal. Special guests were National Secretary-Treasurer Connie Dronette who presented the 100-year plaque, Louisiana State Regent Trisha Crombie, First Vice State Regent Jane Donahoe and Second Vice State Regent Cindy Vincent. Karen Fills was Banquet Chairman and committee members were Mary Bushnell, Sue Burke, Laurie Cormier, Barbara Guillotte, Mary Alice Lauw and Andrea Perez. Attendees and guests can be seen gathered at the altar for a picture.

OHIO COURT CELEBRATES 85TH ANNIVERSARY
Court St. Edward #1245, Ashland, Ohio, celebrated its 85th Anniversary with a beautiful Mass celebrated by Pastor and Court Chaplain Fr. Rodney Kreidler. Historical documents were on display in the Church Gathering Area, including the 1936 Charter, Unity and Charity Banner, original leather-bound record books, a poster of the court’s forty-two regents and a sampling of Court St. Edward’s projects and activities through the years. Secretary Claudia Stupi said, “To top off the celebration of our rich history, members distributed chocolate favors to all parishioners after each weekend Mass.” Pictured, left to right, Fr. Rodney Kreidler, pastor and chaplain; Claudia Stupi, Laura Bullard, treasurer; Sally Ahlers, Patti Krispinsky, Kay Bloodhart, Regent Deb Kemp, and Sherri Schafrath, vice regent.

TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY
Court Our Lady of Peace #2489, Converse, Texas, observed its 20th anniversary on Sunday, August 22, 2021, with Mass at St. Monica Catholic Church celebrated by Pastor Thumma Prathap assisted by Deacon David Espinoza. In the photo, front row, left to right, Court Chaplain Fr. Thumma, Charter Members Lorraine Say and Natalia Lopez, Recording Secretary Norma Cordaway, District Deputy Dee Jimenez, Regent Janet Swanson, Vice Regent Eloisa Peralta, Financial Secretary Kim Bourgeois, Treasurer Sandra Lyssy and Charter Member Margaret Cabrera. Second row, left to right, Sylvia Benavides, JoAnn Tufino, Pilar Ramirez, Herlinda Garcia, Mary Kirby, Bernice Gonzales and Frances Flores. Back row, left to right, Laurie Duval, Connie Vasquez, Celia Tokarski, Celia Llamas, Hermia Harper, Rosalinda Barrera, Lucia Abbott and Deacon David. Court member and photographer Natalia Lopez added, “The charter members were presented with their 20-year pins, a purple CDA Rosary and a long-stem red rose by the district deputy, regent, and vice-regent. Two charter members unable to attend were Edna Juarez and Grace Van Hammont.”

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY FOR IOWA COURT
The gathering on October 24, 2021, in St. Peter’s Social Hall was one year after the 100th anniversary of the chartering of Court St. Anthony #330, Council Bluffs, Iowa, which occurred on October 31, 1920. Court officers welcomed Iowa State Regent Rita Carlson, State Secretary Julie Marlow, Council Bluffs Mayor Matt Walsh, Chaplain Deacon John Pfennig, and former Chaplain Fr. Chuck Kottas. Thirty-two members gathered to observe the occasion, some wearing period clothing/accessories of the 1920’s era to enjoy refreshments and music. Attendees can be seen seated for a photo.
NEW YORK COURT CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Court Our Lady of Charity, #2355, Flushing, New York, celebrated its 30th anniversary with a special blessing from Bishop Cisneros of the Brooklyn Queens Diocese. Fr. Vincentius Do, Pastor of St. Michaels Church, seen on the far left, joined several members of the court for the picture.

ONE-HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR PUERTO RICO COURT

Court Isabel La Católica #606, Ponce, Puerto Rico, celebrated its anniversary with a spectacular Centennial Celebration that included Mass in the Diocesan Pastoral Center San Juan Diego. Among those attending seated in the front row were Puerto Rico State Treasurer Primavera Johnson, Financial Secretary Myrna Cordero, Recording Secretary Nelly Castro, Vice Regent Elvira Martinez and Past National Director and National Catholic Daughter Woman of the Year 2020 Manuela Duarte. Standing, first row, Regent Silvia Vazquez Rios, Chaplain Arturo Ramos; second row, members from visiting local court, Dr. Nilda Vega, Esperanza Velez, Carmen Negron, Maria Morales, Judith Soto, and National Director and Puerto Rico State Regent Ivone da Silveira.

PENNYSYLVANIA COURTS SHARE MULTIPLE CENTENNIALS

Court Bellevue #655 and Court Allegheny #664, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, jointly celebrated their 100th anniversaries with a morning Mass and a 1920's themed party afterwards. Reverend Jeff Craig was the celebrant. The guest speakers for the occasion included Mary Jo Pallott, former regent and current vice regent of Court Bellevue; Margie Gowaty, district deputy, Court Allegheny and Court Bellevue; Pennsylvania Second Vice State Regent Lisa McCann; Past State Regent Laraine McGinnis; and Past National Director and Past Pennsylvania State Regent Peggy Guckin. In the photo, left to right, first row: Peggy Guckin; Mercedes Rafferty; Mary Ellen O’Hare, Court Bellevue treasurer; Linda Scalamogna, financial secretary Court Bellevue; Rose Marie Faller, immediate past regent; Maria Faller, regent, Court Belleville, Banner Bearer, Missy Abbott, Court Allegheny; Johanna Leonard, regent, Court Allegheny; Alice Abbott, vice regent Court Allegheny; Margaret Gowaty; Lisa McCann and Reverend Craig. Second row, left to right, Laraine McGinnis; Peg Rafferty, immediate past state regent; Mary Jo Pallott, vice regent, Court Bellevue. Back row, Johanna Morrison, treasurer, Court Allegheny; Margaret Kratz, financial secretary, Court Allegheny. Also included in the picture are members of both courts and guests. Absent from the picture is Christine Bell, secretary, Court Allegheny.

PUERTO RICO COURT CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

The 100th anniversary of the founding of Court Santa Rose de Lima #612, Bayamón, Puerto Rico, was celebrated with a Mass and a lunch. An account of the service activities that were frequently provided to those most in need was offered. In the photo are court officers, left to right, Teresita Aponte, Lima Laureano, Luz T. Martinez, Lilibeth Román, Marigloria Loubriel and Elsita Pezquera.

ONE-HUNDRED YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR PUERTO RICO COURT

Court Isabel La Católica #606, Ponce, Puerto Rico, celebrated its anniversary with a spectacular Centennial Celebration that included Mass in the Diocesan Pastoral Center San Juan Diego. Among those attending seated in the front row were Puerto Rico State Treasurer Primavera Johnson, Financial Secretary Myrna Cordero, Recording Secretary Nelly Castro, Vice Regent Elvira Martinez and Past National Director and National Catholic Daughter Woman of the Year 2020 Manuela Duarte. Standing, first row, Regent Silvia Vazquez Rios, Chaplain Arturo Ramos; second row, members from visiting local court, Dr. Nilda Vega, Esperanza Velez, Carmen Negron, Maria Morales, Judith Soto, and National Director and Puerto Rico State Regent Ivone da Silveira.
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS CELEBRATED BY TEXAS COURT
Court Our Lady of the Blessed Trinity #2637, Pecos, Texas, was instituted on November 24, 1996. Members of the Court decided to celebrate their 25th year anniversary in conjunction with National Catholic Daughter Day in October. Holy Mass was celebrated by Court Chaplain Rev. Jose De La Cruz and Deacon Oscar Machuca with a Fall Out led by Knights of Columbus. Members present for the anniversary were Front Row, left to right, Deacon Oscar Machuca, Becky Gonzales, Maria Matta, Recording Secretary Jodie Guilbur, Financial Secretary Elisa Lara, Treasurer Sonia Urias, District Deputy Susy Acosta, Regent Rosie Salcido, Crissy Soto, Analisa McKinney and Monce Gomez. Middle Row, left to right, Isabel Lara, Anna Hernandez, Lilly Dominguez, Chaplain Rev. Jose De La Cruz, Vice Regent Nora Briceno, Olga Keese, Tracie Castillo and Brenda McKinney. Back row, left to right, Knights of Columbus members Roque Matta, Tony Hernandez, Benny Villa, Allan Wentworth, Erasmo Acosta, Rudy Sustaita and Rudy Gonzales.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY HONORED BY WISCONSIN COURT
Members of Court St. Ann #699, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, celebrated their 100th Anniversary with a dinner on September 26, 2021. Wisconsin State Regent Bernice Lansing, Second Vice State Regent Barb Olson and State Secretary Pauline Riedl were in attendance. Lailah Ott, a National Education Contest Winner, was a guest. Lailah won first place for her poem in Division II. She read her poem and received her award.
A supply of child-sized masks was donated for Okmulgee Primary School children by members of Court Bishop Kelley #1471, Okmulgee, Oklahoma. Pictured left to right are court member and special education teacher Jeanette Taylor; School Principal Jennifer Neal; and court member Jeanne Thornhill.

**CALIFORNIA COURT PROVIDES CHRISTMAS LOVE TO HOMELESS**
Court Holy Innocents #2446, Victorville, California, was in the giving spirit when they met at their annual Christmas party. One-hundred Christmas stockings sewn by members were filled with socks and candy and donated to the Victor Valley Warming Center which houses men and women who have lost their homes due to various circumstances. The shelter provides transportation and access to medical care, social services, and assistance with employment opportunities. The city of Victorville will house a new full-service location of 110 rooms with 170 beds. Aside from this holiday giving, the court has donated food, clothing, blankets and suitcases to the Center over the last year and will continue to assist when the need arises. In the photo, Regent Lucy Reinhardt-Ulatowski is pictured in the far-left corner, standing behind Treasurer Lisa Thiem; Christina Martinez, financial secretary and Linda Lopez, vice regent, are seated next to them and holding stockings. Recording Secretary and Coordinator of the giving event is Michele Quinn, who took the picture.

**OKLAHOMA COURT DONATES MASKS TO CHILDREN**

**LIFE CHAIN SUPPORTED BY TEXAS COURT**
Court Queen of Peace Court #2710, Wichita Falls, Texas, participated in the 34th Annual Life Chain in Wichita Falls. The Life Chain is a peaceful, prayerful and visual statement of solidarity supporting the sanctity of life and an end to abortion. Pictured left to right holding their colorful Choose Life signs are Rosalie Tolentino, Carol Ross, Deann Duncan, Donna Lindeman and Peggy Schmader.

**FOSTER CARE CHILDREN HELPED BY LOUISIANA COURT**
For their first homeless outreach, Court Most Holy Trinity #2734, Covington, Louisiana, helped collect items and load backpacks for children in foster care. In their purple CDA aprons underneath festive balloons, left to right, Gina Chauvin, Laura Ferrara, Paula Henderson, Mary Vorenkamp, Holly Brady, Cindy Manger, Celeste Ragas, Faye Clarey, Ann Marie Mumford, Ellen Marino and Kaye Lomasney.
IOWA COURT SUPPORTS PREGNANCY CENTER
Court Mary of the Assumption #1976, Manchester, Iowa, joined with local Knights of Columbus to present a check for $2,040 to Dennis Rima of the Clarity Clinic Pregnancy Center in Dubuque. The Clarity Clinic supports mothers and fathers dealing with unplanned pregnancies, giving them an alternative to abortion. The donation came from the proceeds of the court’s annual steak fry. Pictured in the photo are Knights and court members presenting the check, left to right, Julene Smith, Lila Geers, Steve Geers, Dianne Larsen, Dennis Rima, Denis Scherbring, Roger Palmer, Joe Schmidt and Jim Heims.

FOOD PANTRY HELPED BY NEW YORK COURT
Members of Court Patricia #195, Newburgh, New York, collected school supplies for distribution at the Deacon Jack Seymour food pantry. School supplies are collected annually and the food pantry distributes the items to their clients. Everything is new, and this year the court collected over 100 items. The clients at the food pantry appreciate the court’s support as these items are needed by the community. In the photo court members gather behind a table containing the gifts to be donated.

TEXAS COURT JOINS FIGHT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY
Court Loving Mother of Mercy #2689, Brownsville, Texas, joined the nationwide observance of the “White Ribbons Against Pornography” campaign during the last week of October. Members of the court attended Mass at The Lord of Divine Mercy Parish celebrated by Court Chaplain Fr. Robert Moreno. They wore white ribbons on their CDA purple shirts to raise awareness about their commitment to decency and their protest of the harms of pornography. In the photo, court members stand in front of the altar with Father Moreno, top, center.

LOUISIANA COURT DONATES TO HOSPICE
Court St. Albert the Great, #2050, Hammond, Louisiana, donated supplies to the North Oaks Hospice. The nurses made a “wish list” of items their patients needed and their court delivered. Pictured with the donations is Program Assistant Lacey. Lacey said the recipients are truly grateful and the supplies are much appreciated!
NORTH CAROLINA COURT SUPPORTS USO
Members of Court Durham #1576, Durham, North Carolina donated bottled water and refillable water bottles, crackers, jerky, trail bars, cookies, playing cards, puzzle books with pens, and drawstring backpack bags to put everything in for the military and their families who stop in the USO (United Service Organizations) at Raleigh-Durham Airport. The USO, which is open 24 hours a day, hosts members of the military and their families who travel through the airport. They also host more than 100 Marine recruits in transit to or from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina every week. These bags are called Comfort Bags and a soldier or sailor can “grab and go” with everything handy in the bag.

North Carolina First Vice State Regent Brenda Spizzo added, “Our officers collected the donations, then we packed and delivered 50 bags for adults and 15 bags for children. The children’s bags also included a small refillable bottle, juice and a toy. The USO staff was really excited about the bags since they are expecting a lot of military travelers soon.” Seen in the photo assembling the bags, from left to right, are Regent Rose Hess, Financial Secretary Ann Elliott, Treasurer Barbara Flynn and Karen Kielbasinski.

COLORADO COURT WALKS FOR ALZHEIMER’S
Court Our Lady of Peace #2728, Woodland Park, Colorado, teamed up with the city of Colorado Springs, Colorado, for the 2021 Walk to End Alzheimer’s. Court members, who wanted to show their support for all those who suffer from Alzheimer’s and dementia and help with their quality of life, formed a team and raised nearly $2,000 for this worthy cause. Evelyn Irving adds, “This was the first time our court has ever walked and/or donated and we even had friends and family walking with us. We were blessed with a beautiful day for our 1.5-mile walk. The event was full of fun and we were each given flowers to put the names of someone we loved that we have lost or someone that helps care for those who suffer with Alzheimer’s. There was so much love and ‘coming together’ with our brothers and sisters in Christ.”

BAKED GOODS BOOTH BY TEXAS COURT
Court Immaculate Mary #2134, Angleton, Texas, sponsored a baked goods booth at Most Holy Trinity Church’s Bazaar in Angleton. All proceeds were donated to the church. Pictured from left to right: Christie Perez, Gail Thomas, Linnet Orlik and Blanca Ochoa.

HOMELESS STUDENTS ASSISTED BY MASSACHUSETTS COURT
Members of Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2396, Brockton, Massachusetts, gather to display some of the back-to-school items they purchased and donated to “Schools on Wheels.” Schools On Wheels provides books, school supplies, and backpacks to homeless students who live in shelters, as well as training tutors and high school/college mentors to address their needs.
THREE STATES JOIN MINNESOTA HABITAT BUILD
Members of Court St. Anne #1840, Medford, Minnesota, were joined by other Minnesota courts, as well as courts in Iowa and Wisconsin for a Habitat for Humanity Build. Court St. Anne was awarded the annual $10,000 Minnesota Habitat for Humanity grant to assist with this build as well as a $10,000 grant from National Headquarters.

Regent Cathy Nelson said, “This support is especially appreciated for this Northfield MN Quad unit which will provide homes for four families! Our CDA Build Day was a great success, with members surprising the Rice County Habitat for Humanity staff and builders as to what a group of dedicated women can accomplish in spite of limited experience. With direction from regular Habitat volunteers and an expert site supervisor who guided us with knowledge, humor, and patience, we accomplished a lot...even moving the project ahead of schedule!”

In the photo, onsite at the Habitat Build, front row, kneeling/sitting left to right, Cathi Breitbarth and Carmen Battenfeld, Court Sacred Heart #1424, Waseca; Habitat Volunteers Rosie Fink and Jerry Kipp. Back row, standing, left to right, Cathy Nelson, Court St. Anne Regent and Minnesota Second Vice State Regent; Lois Nelson, Past Minnesota State Regent and Past National Director; Gail Heim and Carla Brady, all of Court St. Anne #1840, Medford; Barb McGovern, Wisconsin State Treasurer; Mary Pufail, Minnesota State Regent, Court St. Mary #509, Moorhead; Paula Curry, Court St. Joan of Arc #1291, Marshall; Habitat Volunteer Dave Wolf; Maggie Trumpy, Terry Lachine, Bernice Lansing, Wisconsin State Regent and Marie Allen, all of LaCrosse; and Darlene Moritz, National Director. Not pictured: Winnie Hughes, Court St. Anne #1840, Medford; Rev. Jim Starasinich, Chaplain, Court St. Anne; Site Supervisor, Jim Frederick, and the homeowner.

MARYLAND COURT AID APPALACHIAN SCHOOLS
Court Annapolis #326, Annapolis, Maryland, held a school supply drive for delivery to Appalachia. “The collection was held on the morning of August 11th,” Nancy Fulton said. “Donations were plentiful and we filled all the boxes!” In the photo, from left to right, is student Maggie McQuade, former Regent Theresa Cisneros, friend Julia Wolff, student Sam Ditmar and court member Patricia McQuade.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES HELPED BY NEBRASKA COURT
Court Our Lady of Faith #2604, Omaha, Nebraska, led a drive to support the Catholic Charities mobile pantry in Omaha for the Macy and Walthill Reservations in Nebraska. Regent Shirley Simmons explains, “This year the list of needs was considerably longer, so members of our host parish were invited to join us in this effort. The court delivered 1577 disposable diapers, $2000 in school supplies, paper products and sports balls, and 170 lbs. of non-perishable goods to Catholic Charities. Pictured with some of the supplies donated are, standing, left to right, Cindy Currie, Debbie Armentrout and Shirley Simons; seated, left to right, Project Coordinated Cate Rongish and Jan Gillespie.

DIAPER DRIVE BY NEW YORK COURT
Court Margaret Mary #768, Monroe, New York, held a successful Diaper Drive. Peggy McKenna put information in the Church Bulletin of St. Anastasia in Harrison and Rory Ciocciari did it for St. Patrick’s Church in Highland Mills. Rory brought some of the diapers to “Our Mother’s Cupboard” – an outreach program at Sacred Heart Church and thanked all those who made the Diaper Drive such a success, including court members. “The impact for this project was positive for all the needy families,” Past National Regent Helene Shepard said, “and a wonderful feeling for the court members who were able to participate in this project. In the photo Susan Rodriguez and Camille Stack joyfully accept the donation.
TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES CDA SUNDAY
Court St. Francis of Assisi #1887, San Antonio, Texas celebrated National CDA Sunday by attending Mass at St. Leo the Great Catholic Church. This is a yearly event to appreciate our organization and reflect on our roles as Catholic Daughters. Several members continued the celebration at Don Pedro's Mexican restaurant. Pictured left to right, Cynthia Arellano, Janie Belletz, treasurer; Frances Ortega, Angie Salas, Helen Gutierrez, Maria Clark, financial secretary; Amelia Torres, regent; Dolores Correa, and Isabel Gonzales.

ANIMALS BLESSED BY ARKANSAS COURT
Court Our Lady of Victory #664, Pine Bluffs, Arkansas, hosted the Blessing of the Animals at St. Joseph Parish in honor of St. Francis' Feast Day. Deacon Bud Bryant officiated at the service. Those in attendance included non-parishioners as well as parishioners. Refreshments and door prizes followed the service. Deacon Bud and court members later continued the Blessing of the Animals at Pine Bluff's "Claws and Paws" Animal Shelter where Deacon Bryant blessed 40+ dogs and 20+ cats. As the animals were blessed, Trudy Pascale, Past Arkansas State Regent, left, in the photo with Connie Boutwell, current state regent, gave treats to the animals. Marcus Graydon, Director of Animal Control, was presented with a statue of St. Francis and other items. Both Director Graydon and Deacon Bryant felt the Blessing of the Animals should continue next year.

SHRINE PILGRIMAGE FOR CALIFORNIA COURT
Court St. Joachim #2553, Madera, California, scheduled a one-day pilgrimage to St. Joseph Shrine in Santa Cruz. The day began with Adoration and Mass and a Novena to St. Joseph, followed by lunch, a tour of the grounds, and ending with a Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Pictured with Fr. Matthew Spencer, Director of the Shrine and Oblates Provincial, are court members Makayla Soria, Shannon Harvey, Emilia Prado, Josie Garza, Lupe Saludado-Cavazos, Rosie Valdez, Jeanne Bryan, Virginia Cazares, Charlene Stanley, Linda Parkhurst, Maria Elizondo and Elodia Ruiz. It was a beautiful day for all.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS SUNDAY HONORED BY IDAHO COURT
Seen in the photo honoring Catholic Daughters Sunday are members of Court St. Therese of the Mountains #1053, Kellogg, Idaho, front row, left to right, Sandy Brennan, Fr. Jerome, Brenda Armstrong, Rosie Rinaldi, Mary K. Russell, Anita Freedle, Colleen Braun and Deacon Tom. Back Row, left to right, Beth Ferraro, Lisa Lane, Carleen Peterson, Lauren Bourgard, Linda Wombolt, Marbie Higbee, Jo Anne Groves, Lillian Lannen and Sharon Waldo.
CALIFORNIA COURTS DONATE TO BISHOP’S BURSE

Five of the seven courts of the Oakland Diocese in Northern California were present to give a check in the amount of $5,500 to Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, for the Bishop’s Burse to help with the education of local seminarians. Instead of a combined fundraising event, this year’s strategy was different from previous years due to the pandemic. Each court held their own fundraiser, and the total reflected great success. Fundraisers included a jewelry sale, online raffles, and an online See’s Candy Sale. In the photo, left to right, Pat Fegan, past regent, Court John Baptist de La Salle, Concord; Erin Matheny, financial secretary, Court St. Raymond, Dublin; Marie Jose Murray, regent, Court John Baptist de La Salle, Concord; Sylvia Soliz, California state treasurer and Court St. Mary Margaret, Pittsburg; Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ; Lorine Bakowsky, second vice state regent and Court Mary Queen of the World, San Leandro; Nita Volker, district deputy, Court St. Raymond, Dublin; Deacon Tim Meyers; Marina Khayat, Regent, Court Immaculate Heart of Mary, Brentwood.

OKLAHOMA STATE SUPPORTS CANONIZATION

The Oklahoma Catholic Daughters State Officers attended the State and Territorial Officers Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona in July. During this gathering the National Board approved a resolution submitted by National Director Theresa Cersovski. It was resolved that the Catholic Daughters will promote devotion to Blessed Stanley Rother by praying for the “Cause of Canonization of Blessed Stanley Rother.” Father Rother was a native of Oklahoma and served at the diocese’s mission in Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala. On July 28, 1981, he was executed while performing his duties. Pope Francis officially recognized Father Rother as a martyr for the faith on December 1, 2016. All Catholic Daughters in Oklahoma endorsed this resolution and support and pray for his canonization. In the photo, left to right, Debra Brzozowski, Oklahoma second vice state regent; Karla Ludwig, state secretary; Father James Caldwell, state chaplain; Karin Dudash, state regent; Jo Ella Newbury, state treasurer; and Karen Huber, first vice state regent.

LIFE CHAIN BY TEXAS COURT

Members of Court St. Helen #2330, Pearland, Texas, participated in a local Life Chain event, which is a peaceful and prayerful public witness that unites pro-life individuals in cities nationwide. Recording Secretary Connie Lindsay said, “For one hour from 2:30PM to 3:30PM we stood and prayed for our nation and for an end to abortion while holding pro-life signs. There were approximately 50 people holding signs from St. Helen and other churches.” Court members in the photo, left to right, Libbey Wilkins-Rivas, Cindy Schilhab, Ann Strouhal, Janet Huber, Susan Schoefl, Connie Lindsay and Peggy Green.

FATIMA SUPPORTED BY GUAM COURT

The Spiritual Enhancement Committee of Court Our Lady of Camarin #2047, Hagatna, Guam, recently held an America Needs Fatima Public Rosary at the Plaza de España, in downtown Hagatna. Committee members in the photo, left to right, Alicia Iseke, Asunción “Connie” Cruz, Fay Carbullido, Chairperson Elizabeth Untalan, Julia Viloría, LouJean Borja and Beverlyann Borja. Also present but not shown: Terry Alegarbes and Christine Calvo.
CALIFORNIA COURT HOLDS TEA/SOCIAL
Court Compton #942, Compton, California, held its sixth annual Tea/Social at Our Lady of Victory Parish Hall. Regent Yvette Manard said, “It was a fun time for all with decorated tea tables, delicious buffet, hat parade, cake walk and raffles.” Pictured are members who attended.

KINDERGARTEN CLASS HELPED BY NEW MEXICO COURT
Court Saint Joseph on the Rio Grande #2523, Albuquerque, New Mexico, donated school supplies and socks to a kindergarten class. In the photo, court members can be seen with bright smiles as they stand behind the items to be donated.

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY HONORED BY TEXAS COURT
Court Corpus Christi #246, Corpus Christi, Texas, celebrated Respect Life Sunday on October 3, 2021, at the Corpus Christi Cathedral. The celebration was part of the Diocesan Respect Life Sunday, in which the diocese asked its members to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life during the month of October. The court prayed the Rosary before Mass. Regent Laurette Escobar and Sylvia Gonzalez were lectors. In the photo, front row, left to right, Sylvia Gonzalez, member; Bettye McLaughlin, vice regent; Carmen Hernandez, member. Back row, left to right, Cindy Doxey, district deputy; Laurette Escobar, regent; Kissa Bell, member; and Andrea Bell, recording secretary.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTER SUNDAY CELEBRATED BY MINNESOTA COURT
Court St. Rita #409, Perham, Minnesota, honored Catholic Daughter Sunday with Mass at St. Henry’s Catholic Church celebrated by Father George Michael. Court officers processed into church and participated as eucharistic ministers, gift bearers, lectors and choir members. Membership Chairman Joanne Winjum presided at a display table with CDA information for any ladies interested in becoming Catholic Daughters. “It was a busy Sunday for our court,” Publicity Chairman Florence “Fuzz” Hammers said. “We offered Gummi Bears, a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity, and butter braids, a fund raiser for our court. We also served refreshments for the congregation. God bless all who helped make our Catholic Daughters Sunday so special.” In the photo are Catholic Daughters Sunday Refreshment Chairmen Sherryl Holzer and Janel Altstadt.
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS DAY CELEBRATED BY ARIZONA COURT
Court St. Mary Magdalene #2708, Avondale, Arizona, celebrated National Catholic Daughters Day Mass on October 17, 2021. In the photo, first row, left to right, Carmen Abogado, Karen Warden, Becky Salerno, Arlene Engelbert and Mary Kay Kittleson. Court officers, Donna Tomassone, treasurer; Jeanine Maiella, vice regent; Cherrie Pierson, financial secretary; and Debbie Richter, recording secretary (not pictured). Second row, top, left to right, Fr. John Muir, pastor, St. Thomas Aquinas Parish; Barbara Lavin, Kathryn Roberts, Diana Medley, Denise Rutt, Colette Iusi, Ann Marie Dant and Mary Ann O’Brien.

MINNESOTA COURT ENCOURAGES NEW MEMBERS
Marcie Cowan, Faith Formation Director and member of Court Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton, Minnesota, hosted an information evening featuring the opportunities within the Catholic Daughters that are available for parish members. Court members were available to answer questions and provide information about the organization. Pictured with their presentation are Regent Joanne Halbur, Marcie Cowan and Rita Lear.

PILGRIMAGE FOR CALIFORNIA COURT
Members of Court St. Catherine #1378, Torrance, California, accompanied by their Chaplain Fr. Alejandro Enriquez, visited and attended Mass at St. Anthony Church (built in 1902) in Long Beach, California, as part of their yearlong Holy Door Mission Pilgrimage commemorating the 250-year Jubilee of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Fr. Enriquez celebrated Mass and blessed everyone for visiting. Court members can be seen with Father Enriquez standing for a picture inside the beautiful church.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS DAY CELEBRATED BY ILLINOIS COURT
In honor of National Catholic Daughters Sunday, Court West Chicago, #432, West Chicago, Illinois, attended Mass celebrated by Pastor Father Dave Lawrence. Recognized for significant membership anniversaries were Rosalinda Campos (ten years); Carol Vigsnes (ten years); Alice Tinnes (25 years); Pat Scheckel (25 years); Diane Gallagher (40 years); and Sylvia Mosier (55 years). In the photo are, front row, Rita Thomas, Julie Barnoski, Pat Scheckel, Sylvia Mosier, Vice Regent Linda Helminiai, and Recording Secretary Madeleine Bartsch. Back row, Maryann Radkiewicz, Alice Tinnes, Financial Secretary Karen Carlson, Regent Trini Cantu, Treasurer Carole Weigand and Maria Fernandez.
MONTANA COURT HOLDS ANNUAL PRIEST APPRECIATION DINNER

It has been a tradition of Court St. Teresa #1161, Havre, Montana, to celebrate the end of the school year with Mass and reception of new members and installation of newly elected officers. After Mass the court meets at the Mediterranean Room for a Priest Appreciation Dinner with their local priest as the guest of honor. Last year this celebration was postponed due to Covid until September 19, 2021, at which time the court invited Monsignor Daniel Wathen to join them for brunch after Sunday Mass. In the photo, seated, Stephanie Bearden (possible new member); Gloria Tilleman; and Secretary Sue Swan. Standing, Monsignor Wathen; Vice Regent Monica Gallegos-Laeupple; Johanna Kato; Mary Novak; Kelly Stewart; Treasurer Linda Gobin; and Regent Lynne Boyle.

DECEASED MEMBERS HONORED BY NEBRASKA COURT

Members of Court St. Michael #697, O’Neill, Nebraska, remember and honor their deceased members every year by gathering to place home-crafted CDA flags at local cemeteries. Vice Regent Linda Schneider explains. “We meet at the cemetery and gather to pray for all of those who have gone before us. Then our court sisters pair up with a chart of locations and names and place our flags at the headstones a few days before Memorial Day. The flags remain for approximately a week, and we return and remove them until we return the next year.” In the photo, left to right, (beginning with member with blue headband) Natalie Butterfield, Pat Selting, DiAnne Gilg, Suzanne Moss, Regent Karen Nollette (holding flags), Recording Secretary Dawn Schneider, Dawn’s Granddaughter Marcie, Financial Secretary Mary Mlnarik, Sandi Gaughenbaugh, Treasurer Mary Jo Petersen and Vice Regent Linda Schneider.

BLESSED MOTHER HONORED BY NORTH DAKOTA COURT

Court Holy Cross #2718, West Fargo, North Dakota, gathered to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary during a Crowning of Mary Mass. Information was shared before Mass about the Catholic Daughters by Regent Lisa Roeske. Catholic Daughters carried roses in procession and placed them at the feet of Mary. Members participated in all liturgical ministries and greeted potential members after Mass with membership brochures. In the photo, front row, left to right, Kathy Haaland, Robin Knudson, Lisa Roeske, Dora Mae Mitzel and Kathie Wokasch. Second row, left to right, Barb Badinger, Kay Phelan, Linda Beare, Rosemary Heise, Fr. Phil Ackerman, Madonna Nelsen, Jan Sanders, Clare Elless and Rita Meyer. Third row, left to right, Annette Moss, Shari Sauvageau, Janet Ronning, Sue Eggl, Allison Buske, Julie Fennell, Jane Wirth and Laura Wolf. Back row, left to right, Nancy Aal, Trisha Lynum, Carla Janssen, Barb Sinner, Natalie Cowley, Lori Bachmeier, Julie Belch and Teresa Freed.

OHIO COURT HOSTS SISTER COURTS

Court Ashland #1245, Ashland, Ohio, hosted a luncheon for Ohio courts Court Wooster #1073 and Court St. Christopher #2748 at the Deer Ridge Event Center in Bellville, Ohio. The event was attended by 20 members and opened with a prayer service organized by Court Ashland luncheon committee members. Laura Bullard explains, “Following a delicious lunch buffet, we had the pleasure of listening to our special guest National Director Darlene Moritz, speak on the importance of belonging to the largest Catholic women’s organization. She updated us on the issues being addressed at the national level, the importance of local membership goals and the qualifications needed to form a state court. The day concluded with the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. Attendees were sent home with hand painted prayer rocks as a reminder to ‘Let all you do be done with love.’”
SUCCESSFUL GARAGE SALE BY TEXAS COURT
Court St John the Baptist #2073, Alvin, Texas, recently held its annual garage sale, and it was a big success. Mary Montague explains. “People were lined up and ready to enter at 7:00AM. Customers were looking forward to this event and did not leave empty-handed. The Garage Sale team is exactly what it says: it’s a team and not one person can do it all. Together, in Unity, the proceeds were $5,369! In the picture are some of the week’s volunteers.

PENNSYLVANIA COURT JOINS PRIEST APPRECIATION PICNIC
Members of Court Our Lady of Victory #722, Northern Cambria, Pennsylvania, attended the Priest Appreciation Picnic at Prince of Peace Hall in Northern Cambria. The church hall was set up for a basket raffle and dinner, and the court appreciated the ladies and gentlemen of Prince of Peace parish who gave up their time while preparing for their own parish fund raiser to assist the court in getting the hall ready. This spirit of community sparked an interest in the Catholic Daughters leading to potential new members from some of the parish ladies. In the photo are some of the priests, past chaplains, deacons and nuns who attended.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT HELD BY VERMONT STATE
The Vermont State Board held a free Spiritual Retreat at Our Lady of Angels Church “to let all women experience an opportunity to grow in their love of God while enveloped in the Unity and Charity of the Catholic Daughters.” Deacon Gesualdo Schneider, through a combination of music, discussion, prayer and Adoration, led attendees closer to “Jesus’ Family.” Each of the three sessions focused on one member of the Holy Family - Joseph, Mary, or Jesus. A goodwill donation raised $775 to support a local Knights of Columbus purchase of an ultrasound machine for a mobile clinic. A wonderful lunch was prepared by Treasurer Dale Mount. Pictured, left to right, Deborah Brown, Vermont second vice state regent; Deacon Gesualdo (husband of state regent); Loretta Schneider, state regent; Doris Voyer, first vice state regent; and Dale Mount, state treasurer.

BLUE MASS AT NEW MEXICO COURT
Members of Court Santa Cruz #1298, Las Cruces, New Mexico, served refreshments to those who serve and protect the community after the Blue Mass at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral. In the photo court members are pictured with Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino, Bishop of Las Cruces.
TEXAS COURT WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

Members of Court St. Helena of the Cross #2679, San Antonio, Texas, enjoyed the company of new pastor, Fr. Marcin Pawel Czyz, at a reception after the All Souls’ Memorial Mass and Candle-lighting Service on November 2nd. Members can be seen in the photo in beautiful white supporting Fr. Czyz.

MARYLAND COURT GIVES CHAPLAIN FACETIME VISIT

Father Pawel Sass, Pastor of Nativity Church and Chaplain of Court Our Lady of the Americas #2344, Brunswick, Maryland, was unable to return to his home country of Poland for his birthday. So, the parish rose to the occasion and arranged for him to visit with his family in Poland via Facetime on his birthday. Father can be seen in the photo with a bright smile and birthday crown and leis.

NEW YORK COURT HONORS MEMBER’S SERVICE

At their November meeting Court Nilan #985, Highland, New York, recognized Barbara Trapani for her 65 years of service. Barbara joined the Catholic Daughters in 1956 when she moved to Highland. She has many fond memories of being a member, but one of her favorites was on a CDA trip to Washington, D.C. and being a part of a special Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. She said it was amazing to see so many Catholic Daughters together. Barbara held every office in her court and some more than once. “Barbara told us that she was 32 years old when she joined,” Maureen Breslin said, “and the more active she became in the court the more she enjoyed it!” Regent Joanne Vaccarino presented Barbara with her 65-year pin, a certificate of recognition, flowers and a CDA signature tote bag of treats. Maureen added, “What a blessing Barbara has been to Court Nilan and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.” In the photo smiling court members surround and support Barbara on her special day.

LONG STANDING MEMBERS HONORED BY MINNESOTA COURT

Several members of Court St. Bernard #886, Lismore, Minnesota, have demonstrated the CDA motto of Unity and Charity for many decades. “Their service,” Deb Lutmer said, “has not gone unnoticed and is very much appreciated.” Long-standing members Bette LeBrun (66 years), Joyce Erdman (58 years) and Mary Ann Loosbrock (64 years), were present at Mass on Catholic Daughters Sunday to be recognized and receive their pins gifted from the Minnesota State Board. Unable to attend were Henrietta Lais (74 years) and Marie Schnieder (79 years). In the photo, left to right, recipients Bette LeBrun, Mary Ann Loosbrock, and Joyce Erdman with Court Chaplain Monsignor Richard Colletti. “We congratulate them,” Deb Lutmer added, “and make it our goal to serve the Catholic Daughters as they have and continue to do.”
Two Nevada Courts Honor Newly-Ordained Bishop

Members of Court Our Lady of the Valley #2118, Las Vegas, Nevada, joined in celebrating the Ordination to the Order of Bishops of the Most Reverend Gregory William Gordon, Titular Bishop of Novapieitra, the first Auxiliary Bishop of Las Vegas. Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America, proclaimed the papal letter at the Ordination Mass which was well attended at The Shrine of the Most Holy Redeemer in Las Vegas. The event was video linked to EWTN and Relevant Radio for broadcast. In the photo, left to right, Nevada State Regent Leonie Frisbee, Regent Loy Jo Prado and State Treasurer Leslie Valpiani are pictured with Bishop Gordon at the reception following the Ordination Mass.

Court Ave Maria #1420, Las Vegas, Nevada was also proud to be present, especially because Monsignor Gordon was their past court chaplain. Bishop Gordon faithfully led the court for years while assigned as Pastor of St. Anne Catholic Church, home to Court Ave Maria. Bishop Gordon also honored his home parish by celebrating an appreciation mass before the afternoon reception. In the photo Bishop Gordon is seen with Nevada First Vice State Regent Regina Couvrette, Regent Erin McAloon, Financial Secretary Mary Lopez, Treasurer Maria Fernandez and court members. “This was a momentous event and celebration,” Maria Fernandez said, “not soon to be forgotten by court members and parishioners.”

Oregon Court Learns “All About Angels”

Court Klamath #1295, Klamath Falls, Oregon, enjoyed its largest turnout since the pandemic began to listen to a presentation entitled “All About Angels” from fellow Sacred Heart parishioner Francis Maiss. Francis has done considerable research into the nine choirs of angels and their missions from God. The November meeting included 17 members, six guests, and Sacred Heart Pastor and Court Chaplain Rev. Rogatian Urassa. “Three members hosted a lovely luncheon of quiche, salad and cream puffs,” Publicity Chairman Lynne Butterworth said. “A guest who was born in the Holy Land brought baklava. It was truly a special occasion.” In the photo, Francis is presenting while attendees listen attentively.

Pennsylvania Court Supports Member Investiture

On the Feast Day of St. Benedict, Court Callistus #66, Kane, Pennsylvania, participated in the investiture of court member Francesca Cecchetti as an Oblate of the Order of St Benedict. Following Mass, court members hosted a reception for Francesca’s family and friends in the parish hall. Pictured are Reverend William O’Brien, Pastor of St. Callistus Roman Catholic Church, and Francesca as she is being invested as an Oblate of St. Benedict.
PEOPLE

IOWA STATE CHAPLAIN RECEIVES PONTIFICAL HONOR
Members of the Iowa State Board attended Iowa State Chaplain Monsignor Edward Girres’ Investiture with National Chaplain Bishop Walker Nickless attending. "The Iowa Catholic Daughters are proud that Msgr. Girres is our State Chaplain and leader of our members," Suzanne Torrey said. "Congratulations Monsignor Girres!" In the photo are Second Vice State Regent Brenda Vore, State Treasurer Deb Steger, Monsignor Girres, State Regent Rita Carlson, and First Vice State Regent Suzanne Torrey.

NEW DEACON HONORED BY OKLAHOMA COURT
Members of Court St. Jude #2166, Lawton, Oklahoma, celebrated their new Deacon Jim Cerrone, and his wife, Betty with a reception after each Mass. Deacon Jim was ordained on November 6th with His Excellency Most Reverend Paul Coakley, Archbishop of Oklahoma City, officiating. "We are honored," Regent Gina Muse said, "to have Deacon Jim in our parish at Holy Family Catholic Church." Pictured left to right, Regent Gina Muse, Vice Regent Victoria Stringer, Betty Cerrone, Deacon Jim, Renata Rudd, Louisa Floyd and Pam Middleton.

POEM IN PRAISE OF CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS BY PENNSYLVANIA MEMBER
Barbara Surovec is Vice Regent of Court Reverend Patrick McArdle #448, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. She has written the lovely poem below expressing how favorably she feels about the Catholic Daughters. Barbara is in the photo with fellow officers and court members, third from the left, front row.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS FOREVER!
I like writing poems about people, places and things,
Others have their favorite pastime and the joy it brings.

I've written about groups of people like the red hatters,
But this group is special, it's what they do that matters.

Catholic Daughters, Court Rev. McArdle #448,
Women who come together with so much work on their plate.

Loving and serving GOD is what Catholic Daughters are all about,
They live the motto of unity and charity of which there's no doubt!

First to GOD in prayer they lay out their plan and petition,
They give freely of themselves and ask no one for any commission.

A Mother and Father whose children don't have enough to eat,
Are given the funds to lessen the burden that these parents meet.

An unwed, pregnant girl without help, thinks she will have to abort,
Never, say the Daughters, as they call together their Court.

We'll have a baby shower, we'll gather what she will need,
Give the gift of God's life to this child, to her they all plead.

A Father loses his job and comes home to face his honey,
I've lost my job, we'll have to do with so much less money.

The Catholic Daughters stay abreast of those that are in despair,
Through prayer and hard work they put the situation in repair.

Bake sales, raffles, and all sorts of money-making schemes,
They know the perils of families, they, too, had broken dreams.

It isn't always the rough roads with others they tow,
There's always so much good, clean fun, and places to go.

There's banquets, conventions, retreats, and parties and more,
At a Catholic Daughters function, you can have fun galore.

Catholic Daughters coming together for the common good,
Find your inner joy and reward, come join us...you really should!!!
FOCUS ON YOUTH

CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED BY VIRGINIA COURT
Two Bishop Denis J. O’Connell High School students won first place in Division III in the national CDA 2021 Education Contest: Ina Chung in the Art category and Kit Shiells in the Essay category. Court Queen of Peace #1872, Arlington, Virginia, presented the certificates and awards to Ina and Kit in August.

OREGON COURT ESTABLISHES NEW SCHOLARSHIP
Court St. Pius X #2335, Klamath Falls, Oregon, awarded its annual scholarship to two graduating high school seniors, Lena Dreyer and Esme Murillo. This year the court also established a scholarship for those in continuing education and two additional scholarships were awarded to Claire Lowery and Sally Clark who are attending college. Students attending college or graduate school or returning to higher education are eligible for the new scholarship. In the photo are Esme Murillo, Lena Dreyer, Claire Lowery, Regent Deb Scaravilli and Scholarship Chair Barb Rhodes.

TEXAS JUNIORS MAKE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS FOR CHILDREN
JCDA members of Court Ancillae Mariae #1886 Crosby, Texas, had a fun afternoon decorating approximately 180 Christmas stockings and filling them with small toys and treats that were given out during the holidays through the Saint Vincent de Paul ministry. This is a service project the JCDA Court enjoys participating in each year to bring Christmas joy to children in need. In the photo the industrious Juniors can be seen holding some stockings while others lay on the tables in front of them.

JCDA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY TEXAS COURT
Court Anna Poth #1178, Poth, Texas, awarded $750 scholarships to JCDA seniors Jeralyn Wiatrek and Jordan Lyssy. Both are active members of The Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Poth. Pictured, following the Poth High School 2021 Senior Mass, left to right, Jeralyn Wiatrek, JCDA Advisor Lisa West, President Madison West and Jordan Lyssy. Jeralyn attends Texas Tech University and Jordan is at Texas State University. Jeralyn also received a $3000 Texas State CDA Scholarship.

OREGON COURT ESTABLISHES NEW SCHOLARSHIP
Court St. Pius X #2335, Klamath Falls, Oregon, awarded its annual scholarship to two graduating high school seniors, Lena Dreyer and Esme Murillo. This year the court also established a scholarship for those in continuing education and two additional scholarships were awarded to Claire Lowery and Sally Clark who are attending college. Students attending college or graduate school or returning to higher education are eligible for the new scholarship. In the photo are Esme Murillo, Lena Dreyer, Claire Lowery, Regent Deb Scaravilli and Scholarship Chair Barb Rhodes.
NEW MEMBERS FOR TEXAS JCDA COURT

JCDA Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, Texas, recently held a membership drive and received 28 young ladies into the court. The new JCDA court now boasts a total of 77 members. Karli Rodriguez serves as court leader. Look at the new young juniors beaming in the picture!

NEBRASKA COURT ANNOUNCES CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Ainsley Kuhl, a seventh-grade student at Scotus Central Catholic Junior/Senior High in Columbus, Nebraska, on placing third in the National 2021 Education Photography Contest, Division II. Ainsley was sponsored by Court Little Flower #988, Columbus, Nebraska. The theme was “Let all you do be done with love,” and her photo is of her younger brothers. In the photo, Regent Eugene Torczon is seen presenting Ainsley with a certificate and $25 cash prize.

LOUISIANA COURT AWARDS FATHER BACHMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Court Father Charles Kirk #1573, Lake Arthur, Louisiana, recognized Morgan Woods as one of the recipients of the Father Leonard Bachman Graduate Scholarship Award in the amount of $2500. Morgan is a tremendous influence and leader for youth in Lake Arthur. Not only does she have a career as an educator but she is also a leader for St. Maria Goretti Junior Catholic Daughters and continues to teach and assist with the summer religion program.

“Congratulations Morgan,” Barbara Bueler said, “and thank you for being an outstanding member of the court and an exceptional role model for our youth.”
When I saw the title of this book and realized that it refers to the Virgin Mary, I was a little puzzled and very intrigued. While Mary is venerated and adored for her humility, obedience and deep faith, I had never thought of her as a philosopher. Having studied Plato, Kant and Spinoza, I didn’t see how Mary of Nazareth fit into this august group of men with their abstract reasoning and sometimes abstruse theories.

But, as the author explains, at its heart philosophy is a love affair with wisdom, and Mary loved her son Jesus – wisdom incarnate – more than any other person. Kreeft, a professor of theology at Boston College and a prolific author, explains that this book is not for professional philosophers who lecture in academic institutions, but for everyone. He is stripping the definition of philosophy down to its essence. Poking some fun at his own profession, Kreeft writes, “Philosophy is not the cultivation of cleverness, or the sophistication of scholarship, or the analysis of analysis, or the refutation of refutations, or the deconstruction of deconstructions.” Rather, “philosophy is a romance, a love affair – the love of wisdom.”

And so, we have a portrait of Mary showing that she had the highest kind of wisdom, a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit – a gift in which wisdom is an actual taste “of the divine things we hope to attain and contemplate in heaven.” Thus, Mary is considered the “Seat of Wisdom,” a “sure haven for all who devote their lives to the search for wisdom,” in the words of St. John Paul II.

Kreeft cites two crucial Old Testament Scriptural references to Mary, Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 7:14. In the Genesis passage, which occurs after the fall of Adam and Eve, God said that He would put enmity between the serpent and the woman; thus, Church Fathers have called Mary “the second Eve.” The Isaiah passage is a prophecy about how a virgin will conceive and bear a son, and his name will be called Immanuel – which means “God with us.”

The author also cites a New Testament reference to Mary, Revelation 12. This passage, full of vivid, detailed images, describes how “a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars,” a woman great with child, cries out in anguish for delivery. A huge red dragon (Satan) stands before the woman to devour her male child at his birth; the dragon pursues the woman, but she is given two great eagle’s wings to escape. The passage notes that the dragon is angry with the woman, and makes war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. In all three of these passages Mary can be considered our sinless mother, in contrast to the first woman, Eve.

Mary’s Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55), her beautiful prayer of obedience to God and her acceptance of His mission, stands as a powerful witness to her love of wisdom incarnate, the child she will bear to bring salvation to humankind.

Readers may wonder, how did Mary become so wise? Kreeft answers by listing 14 implicit principles to Mary’s method for learning wisdom. They are: 1. tradition; 2. “the fear of the Lord;” 3. contemplative receptivity; 4. active questioning; 5. silence; 6. pondering; 7. the inner life; 8. openness to grace; 9. closeness to Christ; 10. virginity; 11. innocence; 12. faith; 13. obedience; and 14. accepting suffering. If we think about Mary’s life as devoted to a personal love of wisdom, we realize that she has given us a blueprint for seeking wisdom in our own lives.

Rather than an intellectual, scientific approach, Mary’s life embodied a devotion to God that relies on spiritual perception. As Kreeft writes, “Mary inherited the wisest tradition, the one authored and authorized by God, a divine ‘revelation’ or self-disclosure. Its primary medium was divinely inspired Scriptures, which Mary knew and loved.” He adds, “Mary became the mother of Wisdom Himself.”

Could we have a better philosopher than Mary to lead us closer to Christ? This book answers “no.” She is our universal model, the Mother of God. 🙏
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