



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

*57<sup>th</sup> Biennial National Convention*

Sioux Falls, SD

*July 17-22, 2018*

# CIRCLE OF LOVE AWARDS

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

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**July 18-21, 2018**

**National Education Awards**

**Marialice Sagan, National Director and National Education Chairman**

**Louisiana State Project: The Circle of Love Program**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

The Circle of Love Program was presented to all regents, vice regents, district deputies and state chairmen during a one-day leadership conference held in each diocese of Louisiana. A Power Point presentation was developed and used throughout the conference. The Power Point presentation was put on the state website for use by all. Each spoke of the Circle of Love was explained by a different state officer with examples given.

**Massachusetts State Project: Building Teamwork**

**State Regent: Patricia McShane**

The Massachusetts State Court offered a teamwork workshop for all local officers, district deputies and chairmen. All members of CDA were also invited to attend. Games such as Trivial Pursuit for CDA were played. Each state officer prepared 50 questions based on the "Tools of the Trade". Teams were formed to work together to answer the questions. Many long-time members stated that they learned new things as well as having their minds refreshed about some of the basics. The goal of building teamwork was met. Contact state regent to get more specifics.

**Texas State Project: State Memorial Scholarship Fund**

**State Regent: Rosie Stockwell**

Texas has a State Memorial Scholarship Fund which was started in 1980. Of the 245 courts in Texas, about 200 courts participate. Funds are raised through the sale of Mass cards. Mass enrollments are \$2.50 for a period of one year with the mass being said on the first Friday of each month by the state CDA Chaplain. A list of those enrolled is given to the chaplain. Total dollar amount for the period of March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2018 was \$83,450. Total scholarship recipients were 81.

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**Court St. Margaret # 605, International Falls, Minnesota**

**Regent: Jeanine Alich**

**Human Trafficking Awareness**

This court partnered with the Knights of Columbus and Friends against Abuse to bring a speaker from Park Rapids, MN. The public was invited. Posters were put up in the hotels and restaurants in town and in neighboring Canada. Seventy people attended the two-hour presentation which started and ended with a prayer by their pastor. Attendees included law enforcement, doctors, clergy, CDA, KCs and interested public. International Falls is a border town, and this presentation should help people to keep their eyes and ears open to a possible problem.

**Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs, South Dakota**

**Regent: Joyce Hayes**

**Holy Rosary Mission/Red Cloud Art Show Trip**

This court has 19 members and 13 participated in a trip to Pine Ridge Indian reservation which neighbors them. This trip included a tour of the mission, school, cemetery and the juried art show featuring art from native Americans across the county. They learned about the Jesuits and other missionaries as well as Indian history of the area. This trip met its aim of gaining a better understanding of their neighbors.

**Court Our Lady of Faith, #2604, Omaha, NE**

**Regent: Gina Dierks**

**Stress-Health-Distraction**

How does stress affect us and our relationship with our Lord? Every year this court offers a retreat for their members which they try to make educational as well as spiritual. The theme this year revolved around the busy, stressful lives that we as women have to cope with and how we can learn to center ourselves and maintain a healthy relationship with prayer and those around us. A speaker who was a counselor educator spoke about the use of stress reduction and relaxation techniques. A book was offered to the members "A Guide to Christian Meditation" by Fr. Bartunek. Fr. Letak spoke about how we can use these resources to engage more deeply in personal prayer.

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**National Family Awards**

**Essie Walker, National Director and National Family Chairman**

**Louisiana State Project: Pray Pilgrimage for My CDA Family of Sisters**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

As new officers, one of the first things the State Board of Louisiana wanted to do was pray for the Catholic Daughters they were leading. They desired a spiritual bond with their sisters. A prayer pilgrimage took place on July 11-15, 2017, the dates leading up to and during the New Officers Training in Belleville. All Louisiana Courts and members were invited to pray for state officers during these days. Each day, a church or shrine was visited. The State Officers would pray and light a candle for the Catholic Daughters in one of the Diocese in the state. They also created an altar in their room in the Shrine hotel and had morning and evening prayer services together, always remembering each Catholic Daughter Sisters in each diocese. Churches visited were Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, St. Francis de Sales Oratory, Old Cathedral Basilica, St. Joseph Shrine, Church Our Lady of the Snows, the Chapel of Santo Nino de Cebu and the Lourdes Grotto. A picture was taken of the officers lighting the candle for their CDA sisters at each church and shrine. The picture was sent to all court regents in the diocese of the day with the caption, "Look who is praying for you!" The goal of this activity was to join all Catholic Daughter sisters in prayer throughout the state. All members were impacted through prayer and it built a stronger community of sisters.

**Nevada State Project: Dinner at Ronald McDonald House**

**State Regent: Jina Couvrette**

The Ronald McDonald offers a place for families to stay when traveling to Las Vegas to get treatment or diagnostic testing for a sick child. Ten members from three courts in Nevada prepared dinner on December 7, 2017. After a long day, families were grateful to have a hot meal waiting for them. During dinner, members were able sit and talk with the families who ask the ladies to pray with them when they discovered, they were a religious ministry. One woman was waiting to see if her daughter had cancer. The ladies were able to share information on another Nevada charitable project with the mother. Candle lighters is an organization that help families with children suffering from cancer. The impact was so strong, the members made another visit with the JCDA girls. The members were so touched by the bravery of the families and grateful for the opportunity to help with something as simple as a meal.

**Texas State Project: CDA Day at the Park with the Astros**

**State Regent: Rosie Stockwell**

The goal of CDA Day with the Astros 2016 was to promote Family in the Circle of Love Program of work. The event was in celebration of families. Preparation for this CDA Family event began early in the term with the committee seeking permission from the Houston Astros Marketing Team. One of the organizers felt it was a way to recognize the Catholic Daughters in Texas. Publicity for the event was sent to all Texas CDA courts. Texas State Regent Eve Trevino threw out the first pitch to start the game. The hosting courts treated CDA members, family and friends with door prizes throughout the game. There was a reception after the game. The hosting courts again treated everyone with food, drinks and fun. A proclamation on behalf of the city of Houston was presented to the state regent proclaiming CDA Day in Houston, July 2, 2016. Everyone was invited back to Houston the next day to attend Mass at the Galveston-Houston Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral located in the heart of downtown Houston. Everyone wore purple. American's favorite pastime is baseball and Texas brought the joy of the game to over 880 CDA families and friends on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. The impact of this CDA Family event in Texas was immeasurable. The priest acknowledged the presence of Texas CDA during Mass. Fans at the game saw how "Unity and Charity is at work in the projects CDA promotes. Over one hundred courts were<sup>4</sup> in attendance.

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**Court Morning Star #899, East Northport, New York**

**Regent: Anne Viggiano**

**Wash Up Kits**

On Long Island, St. Anne's Church in Brentwood is a center for helping people in need. The Peanut Butter and Jelly Gangs Hospitality Too Soup Kitchen feeds and clothe those in need. The soup kitchen provides hot meals. Court Morning Star #899 makes approximately 150 wash-up kits per month to give to the soup kitchen clients. Each baggie contains soap, a wash cloth, toothpaste and toothbrush along with religious articles to inspire clients. Members of the court donate items; help cut up towels into washcloths and deliver completed bags to Brentwood. The courts treasury supplements this work by providing items that may need to be purchased for the kits. This is satisfying charity for the members because they all can participate by working at home or by shopping or delivering the kits. At least 25 members have participated in the project and more donated items to it from time to time.

**Court Notre Dame de la Paix #2316, Vacherie, Louisiana**

**Regent: Susan Stein**

**Traveling Chalice for Vocations**

This court has participated in this project since 2000. Every weekend a family takes the chalice with instructions into their home to pray for vocations. A new chalice was donated by one of the members. Everyone is encouraged to involve the entire family as a time to pray together. A booklet is included with the chalice for writing the name and date of those praying. Prayer books on vocation are included in the binder as an aid to prayers. The coordinator takes the time to send emails to members and call parishioners to take the chalice home for a week. Most of the time people offered to do this ministry for birthdays, anniversaries or the death of a loved one. The members praise and thank God that the parishioners are so generous with their time of prayers for vocations. The member's goal is to continue this ministry as a vital part of their CDA court and to benefit the church as a whole. They believe this ministry enables children to learn from their parents or guardians the importance of praying for vocations. One of the most satisfying aspects of this ministry is allowing the home bound to participate. The parishioners participate by taking the chalice to the homebound members.

**Court Jesus Nazareno, #2345, Isabele, Puerto Rico**

**Regent: Julie Juarbe**

**Mission Pro Family**

The goal of the court was to participate actively with Pastoral Plan of the Diocese of Arecibo. Court Jesus Nazareno #2345 planned a Mission Pro Family in the Villa Pesquera of the town. The event started in the month of June visiting all families of the community to conduct a census. An invitation was made to other apostolic groups in the parish. They were joined by trainees, John XX111 and Charismatic Renewal. For several days family prayer assemblies were held. They prepared an area on the street with chairs and sound equipment. They had a sharing with neighbors. In July, the Feast of the Patron of the fishermen was celebrated with a Mass in the Court of the Villa Pesquera Sector. Mass was celebrated by their Chaplain. The mission was closed with a health clinic for the benefit of the community. The court provided optometry, orientation on different diseases, sugar test, blood pressure etc. Dr. Jackeline Hernandez and Dr. Julie Juarbe provided dental exams and gave samples of tooth paste and educational information. The members prepared a bazaar where the community could take clothes, footwear and other items for the home. Services were provided to seventy families. This project was carried out for four months.

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**Louisiana State Project: Leadership Conference featuring Laverne and Shirley**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

The event was listed as a day of learning, entertainment and fun for CDA leaders in Louisiana. Why should the court officers, state deputies, Circle of Love chairmen, local court regents, vice regents and members attend? Because there is always something new to learn, it is an opportunity to see your CDA Sisters and there is a special surprise for all who attend. National and state projects, Circle of Love programs, financial review education, JCDA and court membership and development were presented via power point presentations and skits. A fashion show of CDA items available and a special skit by Laverne and Shirley showed what NOT to do at a meeting. Courts were encouraged to share this information by accessing the state website and using the power points on that site as court presentations. The goal was to empower all members to be better leaders who then are willing to take leadership positions in their courts.

**Massachusetts State Project: “What would you do?”**

**State Regent: Patricia McShane**

A statewide teamwork workshop was planned to build unity with officers, members and district deputies. The day started with Mass followed by the meeting, food and fellowship. A special program was planned for the afternoon session that was helpful to all the attendees. Scenarios written and presented by state board and the immediate past state regent were prepared with problems that needed to be solved. The problems involved court programs, hesitation by members to speak up, disruptive members, interest in and help with court activities, court officers carrying out her responsibilities, getting candidates for court officers, balancing the meeting with spiritual, outreach and social activities and attracting new members.

**New Mexico State Project: Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day**

**State Regent: Angelina Romero**

One goal of the New Mexico State Court was to take a greater role on the Right to Life issues and have every court in the state represented at the event next year. Educating court members started with an invitation to join the state court in attending this special day of awareness and unity with their bishops by attending the program at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis in Santa Fe on January 17, 2018. Members were asked to bring items for babies and also socks or toiletries for nursing home residents and expectant mothers. After attending Mass, the director of the New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops presented statistics on abortion and elder abuse, gave suggested topics to discuss with legislators, then set up visits with the legislators. To continue with educating all members, a Right to Life committee member will present a program at the State Retreat and Workshop this fall. The state court will continue to do what is necessary to bring awareness and education to all New Mexico court members.

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**Court St. Maria Goretti #1584, Colome, South Dakota**

**Court Regen: Edna Whetham**

**Cemetery Flower Project**

In memory and honor of loved ones in the Colome, South Dakota cemetery each Memorial Day graves are decorated by family and friends. A member of Court St Maria Goretti #1584 noticed that one section of the cemetery had no decorations because family members were all deceased or did not live in the area. The policy of the cemetery was that all decorations had to be removed one week after Memorial Day or they would be taken to the landfill. At a court meeting concern was expressed about this waste and possible solutions were considered. The court asked permission to remove the flowers not picked up, refurbish them and use them to decorate that undecorated section of the cemetery. Permission was granted. Memorial Day 2018 four hundred graves were decorated by the court with those discarded flowers and decorations by the leadership of that court.

**Court Sacred Heart #1908, Grand Forks, North Dakota**

**Court Regent: Kathy Grossman**

**Book Study Holy Year of Mercy**

Court Sacred Heart #1908 wanted to participate more fully in the Year of Mercy and give members the opportunity to learn leadership skills. One Catholic Daughter member ordered the study books chosen by the court, set up the dates and led the first session. Each session another member led the gathering. Women from two parishes in the area were invited to attend also. After studying the book, much discussion and sharing opened up a more profound meaning of and the need for mercy. Class members developed a merciful heart and became examples of mercy. The leadership impact became equally apparent. Lifelong followers discovered their gifts. As each took over the leadership of one session she encouraged others to lead. The women chose to help others believe in themselves and develop leadership skills that were passed on.

**Court Holy Rosary #1916, Detroit Lakes, Minnesota**

**Court Regent: Karen Bursaw**

**Uganda Water Project**

The members of Court Holy Rosary #1916 welcomed their new parish pastor, Father Andrew Obel of Uganda. He was guest speaker at their Catholic Daughters meeting and spoke of the difficulty of obtaining clean water for their daily needs. The women and children had to walk several miles for water that was very often contaminated by animal waste and many forms of bacteria. After court discussion, a member of the court formed a committee to help remedy the situation and the Uganda Water Project was begun. The initial goal was to raise \$10,000 to dig one well for the village. Parishioners and community members, interested in helping with this worthy project, were invited to participate. Due to the leadership of the Catholic Daughters and participation of the parish and community, \$30,000 was raised. The goal is to dig two wells and pipe clean water into the village. This will improve life expectations and rid the people of some diseases.

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**Margaret Sitte, Legislative Chairman**

**Louisiana State Project: Human Trafficking Awareness**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

Louisiana launched a Human Trafficking Awareness project. After a Catholic Charities' seminar on increased human trafficking along I-10 from Houston to New Orleans, Catholic Daughters in 26 courts began raising funds and raising public awareness for the Metanoia Project to house and help female victims under age 18 in the Baton Rouge area.

**South Dakota State Project: Presidential Election Prayer Vigil**

**State Regent: Brenda Anderson**

South Dakota had 25 courts holding our nation up in prayer the night before the Presidential election. During three hours of adoration, Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus led alternating communal prayer and silent prayer. The event, open to everyone, was publicized in the newspaper, and in Catholic and Protestant church bulletins.

**Texas State Project: March for Life**

**State Regent: Rosie Stockwell**

Texas mobilized 30 courts and approximately 1,000 Catholic Daughters, relatives, and friends for the Texas Alliance for Life March in Austin. As part of the hosting committee, Catholic Daughters also participated in the Ministry Fair, where members distributed several different handouts and pamphlets to the 5,000 participants and others.



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**Court Saint Cecelia, #283, Council Bluffs, IA**

**Regent: Julie Norland**

**White Ribbons Against Pornography**

Legislative Chair Denise Schreiber involved the whole court in the White Ribbons Against Pornography (WRAP) program sponsored by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation (NCOSE). On Oct. 29, the pastor announced why white ribbons decorated the altar and church entrances, and after Mass members stood at every door handing out two brochures from NCOSE. They also made pamphlets available to teachers and counselors at local schools.

**Court Saint Charles, #1791, St. Charles, MN**

**Regent: Deb Rowekamp**

**Pro-Life Events**

Legislative Chair Janice Hansgen organized two events in front of the Planned Parenthood facility in Rochester, MN. First they held a pro-life “Peace in the Womb” Christmas Caroling Day Dec. 21, 2016. Then they organized a “Defund Planned Parenthood Rally” Feb. 11, 2017. The 45 attendees were met with 150 supporters of Planned Parenthood, but the Daughters had publicity, police protection, and talking points planned in advance. Less than two weeks later, Feb. 24, they learned that the Rochester facility would no longer be performing abortions.

**Court Daughters of St. Anthony, #2651, Casa Grande, AZ**

**Regent: Angie Shea**

**Pro-Life Events**

Legislative Chairs Ann Foley, Judy Sellmeyer and Marion Warfel work to combat abortion all year round. Every January the court participates in a Parish LifeWalk and Diaper Drive during the national March for Life. People from other churches join in. They also partner with the Knights of Columbus to purchase a pro-life billboard on the freeway. They gather diapers and clothing, and funds at a baby shower for the local crisis pregnancy center each November.

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**National Quality of Life Awards**

**Carol Bogacz, National Director and National Quality of Life Chairman**

**Louisiana State Project: Crockpots for Christmas**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

In August 2016, a flood devastated many homes and businesses in the southeast part of Louisiana. The First-Vice State Regent and her husband traveled to help another State officer and were greatly affected by the piles and piles of debris that were placed at the roads. She knew that Louisiana State Catholic Daughters had to help in some way. Over 300 CDA sisters were affected by the flood, many had three to four feet of water in their homes, losing everything in the bottom of their kitchen as well as other areas of their homes. Being that the kitchen is the heart of the home, it was logical that the focus should be in that area. It was asked how all these families would prepare food while cleaning and repairing, in many instances gutting and rebuilding. The project Crockpot was born! A letter was sent out to all the courts in the State and members who were not affected by the flooding. Members were asked to send a new crockpot that would be delivered to affected courts and their members. Members were encouraged to buy the crockpots online and have them shipped to the chairman's home, making it easy for everyone. State Officers visited the courts giving out their Crockpots for Christmas in November and December from their CDA sisters across the state. It was quite moving to see how much it meant to members to be remembered by their sisters. Monetary donations were also collected from the courts and distributed to each affected court. The goal of the project was to connect the women from different parts of the state to their sisters in a time of need. The Gospel in Action!

**Massachusetts State Project: Bahkita House**

**State Regent: Patricia McShane**

The Josephine Bahkita House is shelter that welcomes women who have been rescued from human-trafficking. The Bahkita House offers the women a safe and secure refuge from the cruel reality of their suffering and those that hurt them. When these women are rescued they arrive with nothing. Our Catholic Daughters of Massachusetts donate clothing for them to wear, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, bubble bath, shampoo and conditioner, feminine products, even gift cards for when they feel more confident about venturing out. All courts in the state participate in this Quality of Life project. They collect the items throughout the months and bring them to various state Catholic Daughter functions so that we may distribute them at different times to the Bahkita House. Our goal of giving to Bahkita House is to aid our sisters in Christ who have been made to feel worthless and unloved regain a sense of self-worth. We as Catholic Daughters want them to know that someone cares and loves them and gives them what they need coming right out from a horrific ordeal in their lives. The Gospel in Action!

**Nevada State Project: Tiny Hands**

**State Regent: Jina Couvrette**

Nevada State Court celebrates a Day of Reflection. The State chooses a charity and asks for donated items for the Charity in 2017. In 2017, we collected diapers and wipes many items and money for Living Grace, a home for teens who are homeless because of an unwelcome pregnancy. The goal of the state is to give our member an opportunity to donate and feel a connection to a cause that is small and obscure and don't receive a lot of funds from other organizations. The Gospel in Action!

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**Court Fulgens Corona #1684, New Monmouth, New Jersey**

**Regent: Kathleen Poracky**

**Parker-Windsor Boarding Home**

Parker-Windsor Boarding Home has 17 residents, mostly men who are unable to work and need a place to live, where they can feel safe and have the care and dignity they desire. Many have no family nearby and are often alone and forgotten. The Catholic Daughters brighten their lives with monthly visits and parties. The members bring cards, spiritual bouquets and donations of fruit, vegetables, c-ds, books, clothing, pillows, and sheets. At times they solicit other local parishes for donations of used dressers to replace broken furniture. At Christmas time each resident is adopted by a few Court members to buy presents from their wish list. Money is raised in various ways through the year from the court to support the Home and the residents. All of the courts members are deeply involved in Parker-Windsor Boarding Home to spread God's love. This is the Gospel in Action!

**Court St. John # 2105, Vancouver, Washington**

**Regent: Mary Sutherland**

**Loving People on the Margins**

This court has helped Friends of the Carpenter (FOC) a faith-based day center for community, ostensibly the poor and homeless. Initially, the project was to celebrate individuals at the Center with Birthday cakes on a quarterly basis. This was to ensure that each participant is recognized for their special day, the day of their birth. A "Hygge" – (Danish) the coziness idea of embracing positive happiness in everyday life. The activity has expanded to serving lunch calling numbers for Bingo distributing basic underwear, socks, tee shirts and hats, personal hygiene items, jackets, blankets and all other necessary items at the HUGS (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, and Socks) parties. The Catholic Daughters also brought around 78 bras and underwear for the women in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The community they reach out and touch are the ones that have no roof over their heads. The connect during the day brings JOY a personal touch and a spiritual connection to help offset the harsh realities at night. The Catholic Daughters of St. John Court #2105 are forever changed by their acts of compassion we can only hope the participants are changed by the courts compassion. The Gospel in Action!

**Court St. James # 2207, Boonsboro, Maryland**

**Regent: Linda Paulson**

**Meals for Holly Place**

In 2016 the Parish's outreach program to provide a monthly dinner for residents for Holly Place (an Assisted Living Facility for low income elderly in Hagerstown MD) was floundering due to lack of volunteers. Court St James stepped in to continue this activity. Each month 4 – 5 members provide dinner and dessert for 15 residents of the home. Members prepare an entire meal at their homes deliver, serve and clean up at Holly Place. The members have gotten to know each of the residents, and, in turn, the residents look forward to their many visits. On special occasions the twenty-seven-member Court provides seasonal gifts which the residents also enjoy. The members provide Holly Place with needed cleaning items as well as coffee, tea and hot chocolate for the home's pantry. The Catholic Daughters have done such an outstanding job in caring with compassion but also with organization of their work the program has expanded to the Outreach ministry of the South Washington County pastorate, as parishioners of the pastorate will be duplicating our model and providing meals on the Wednesdays of Lent 2018. The Gospel in Action!

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**National Spiritual Enhancement Awards**

**Olga Samaniego, National Regent-Elect and National Spiritual Enhancement Chairman**

**Iowa State Project: Rosaries for Iowa Hospitals**

**State Regent: Jan Grundmeyer**

In 2017, the Iowa State Board began a project to collect and distribute rosaries to hospitals, care centers, and nursing homes across the state. Members are asked to collect rosaries and bring them to state activities including the state convention. Members are also encouraged to mail in rosaries if they cannot attend events. The rosaries are blessed by the State Chaplain. Each rosary is placed in a sandwich bag along with a card explaining the mysteries and giving instructions on how to pray the rosary. Additionally, a small note was included that said, "May the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary bring you peace and comfort. From the Catholic Daughters of the Americas." Members of CDA and their grandchildren help to put the rosaries and notes in bags. So far, 1000 rosaries have been collected and are being distributed. Most of the parishes in Iowa are involved in collecting, making and distributing the rosaries. Often the members assisting in the making of rosaries are the homebound members who are unable to participate in other activities. The project is unifying members across Iowa and bringing comfort to those in need in hospitals and care centers throughout the state.

**Louisiana State Project: A Covenant of Blessed Salt**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

State Officers have led a Covenant of Blessed Salt prayer service in five cities across the state. Each woman at the service is given a small container of salt at the beginning of the service. Officers read Scripture verses and shared stories about the earliest uses of salt. After prayer and reflection, each person is asked to enter into a covenant by pouring her blessed salt into a larger container and to speak the word she will bring to the covenant. Members have spoken words such as leadership, patience, kindness, and friendship. Once everyone has emptied her salt into the larger container, no one can remove only her salt. The salt is stirred creating a covenant among the women present. Each woman is then invited to refill her container with the salt of the covenant. The uses of blessed salt are explained, and the women are encouraged to go home and bless their homes and families. The goal of the service is to strengthen the friendships among members, and all areas of the state have been impacted. Many regents asked for copies of the script to continue to share the experience.

**New Jersey State Project: A Day of Reflection by the Ocean**

**State Regent: Maria Rau**

In May of 2016 and 2017, the New Jersey State Court hosted a Day of Recollection at the San Alfonso Retreat Center which is a Redemptorist Spirituality Center that overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. Their State Chaplain joined them for a day filled with quiet prayer, reflection, and a presentation by a Redemptorist Father. Participants are able to enjoy a quiet time on the beach, and then their day ends with Mass and the blessing of religious articles. The state's goal is allow time for members to be together, to witness their faith, and to share God's love with one another.

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**National Spiritual Enhancement Awards**

**Olga Samaniego, National Regent-Elect and National Spiritual Enhancement Chairman**

**Court Oakland #2209, Oakland, Maryland**

**Regent: Donna Miller**

**Community Prayer Service**

With this activity, the court's goal was to expand the focus of the court's monthly Rosary and Mass to include service in response to prayer. The court offers a free spaghetti meal to the members of the community on the second Monday of each month. Not all community members who are being fed are Catholic. The meal project is also offered at the Episcopal, Brethren, and Methodist Churches on other evenings. When the meal is offered at the Catholic Church, guests are fed physically and spiritually. Brother Art Wolfe or a CDA member leads a short prayer service that includes Scripture and reflection. Themes of importance to the church, local community, or the nation are suggested by CDA members. CDA members, Religious Ed students make and serve the meals. The time of prayer has added a spiritual component to the meal and has been very well received by the community. Attendees and members are being blessed by this service to the community.

**Court Jesus Nazareno #2345 (Jesus the Nazarene), Isabela, Puerto Rico**

**Regent: Julie Juarbe**

**Posadas de Adviento (Advent Posadas)**

Through this project, the court was able to bring the Word of God, support, and hope to victims of Hurricane Maria that struck Puerto Rico in September 2017. During Advent, the court collected basic necessities such as food, solar lights, and personal hygiene articles for men and women. The court's funds were supplemented by a donation made in honor of a deceased member by her family. Court members identified twenty families great need, and they visited each home. When they arrived, they delivered a box of supplies, and they sang and prayed and brought a message of hope and peace. Despite the pain and suffering experienced by these families, they were able to share in the joy and hope of the Christmas season. At the end, whatever the court had left was given to a family who experienced two catastrophic events: they survived Hurricane Maria, but they lost their home and all their possessions in a fire that burnt everything to the ground. This activity blessed the court members as well as the families they visited.

**Court Ave Maria #2650, Chapel Hill, North Carolina**

**Regent: Deborah Del Corro El-Chayeb**

**The Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit**

This activity provides a way "for a person to discover the mystery, the beauty, and the riches of the Eucharist." Court Ave Maria hosted the Vatican International Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit which was presented by Real Presence Eucharistic and Adoration Association. A display of over 180 posters recounted well-documented Eucharistic Miracles that have taken place over the centuries and through the present day. Members planned and promoted the event in the Diocese of Raleigh. The exhibit was open to all parishioners as well as the faithful of the diocese. Members welcomed visitors, gave overviews of the display, and sold relevant books. Donation boxes were provided, and all monies went to the Real Presence Eucharistic Education and Adoration Association. Catholic Daughters were blessed by the conversations they held with visitors. One woman expressed an interest in converting to Catholicism after learning about the miracles. The court has had many requests to present the exhibit again.

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**  
**57<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention**  
**Sioux Falls, South Dakota**  
**July 18-21, 2018**

**Circle of Love – Youth Awards**

**Arline Rich, National Director and National Youth Chairman**

**Iowa State Project: Cross Donation Helps Youth**

**State Regent: Jan Grundmeyer**

Roger Arndorfer, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Regent Kaye, makes beautiful stained glass crosses. He donated one of these crosses as an item to buy chances on at our State Convention. Two parties were grateful for the results – 1) the member who won the cross and 2) the Kuemper Catholic School Foundation in Carroll, Iowa where Mr. Arndorfer requested the proceeds from the chances be sent. In a thank you from the school, they said that the contribution will advance the ministry of Catholic Education for the youth in the Carroll area. What a beautiful way to help in the education of our youth.

**Louisiana State Project: CDA Kids**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette**

The CDA Kids program is a state wide project that began in 1999. Each year, a child, age birth to 12, with a life-threatening illness or a child who is underprivileged is chosen as a CDA Kid from each of the seven dioceses in the state. \$300.00 is given to each family from funds that have been donated by the courts. All courts are encouraged to support the CDA Kid chosen in their diocese. That support comes in the form of prayer and monetary help. Some courts also send monetary support to the family for doctor bills and gas money to be used when traveling to appointments. Many courts send gifts for the child's birthday and at Christmas. The Chairman in each diocese keeps up with the child's progress and when the CDA Kid needs prayers, a state wide email is sent out asking for prayers.

**Texas State Project: Read Across America**

**State Regent: Rosie Stockwell**

CDA sponsors the Read Across America project every year. Each of the courts in Texas was strongly encouraged by the Youth Co-Chairman to participate in this project. Court responded that they donated money and/or books to libraries across the state. Courts also reported going to school and reading in school across Texas. One court reported that members dress up as Dr. Seuss characters or have Seuss type memorabilia on hand during the event. The members go to assigned classrooms and discuss the importance of reading with students. Certificates are given to the readers, and group pictures are taken and put in the local papers.

**Territorial Court Project**

**Court Ludington #745, MI**

**Regent: Rosemarie DeLoof**

**National Catholic Youth Conference**

The National Catholic Youth Conference is held every other year and we hold a bake sale to help raise funds. The Daughters and the parents do the baking and the youth do the selling after all Masses on a weekend in June. This year the most funds ever were raised and the Court decided at their next business meeting to add to the funds so a check for \$1,500 was presented to the Youth Group. One of our members has always gone as a chaperone. She comes back reinvigorated with her faith as do the youth. In return for our help fund raising, the youth group helps our annual Pork and Sauerkraut dinner by busing tables and serving coffee.

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**Court Ave Maria #1420, Las Vegas, NV**

**State Chairman: Leonie Frisbee**

**Pizza with the Priest**

During the school year, Court Ave Maria #1420 treats the students of St. Anne Elementary School to Pizza with the pastor of the parish. Each month a different grade level gets to have lunch with the priest. The court provides the pizza, drinks and baked goods and serves the students and the priest. The activity has become one of the favorite events for the students and the priest. The students love interacting with the priest and ask some very interesting questions. The priest enjoys the relaxed setting and the time to get to know each of the students, the opportunity to create a personal connection between the priest and the students has been very successful.

**Court Mary Queen of Peace #2423, Omaha, NE**

**Regent: Barb Keuchel**

**Beauty & Grace in Faith and in Action Retreat**

A retreat was sponsored and given by Court Mary Queen of Peace #2413, Court Chaplain, and members of Creighton Campus Court. The goal was to assist and demonstrate to the Junior Catholic Daughters and friends how to grow in beauty and grace and how they can and should consider their faith in their actions and how that can lead to being a beautiful and graceful young woman. Everyone who attended said they had a great time and would love to do it again.

**Court Mother Mary E. Lange #2441, Baltimore, MD**

**Regent: Nina Duckery**

**Next Level Training**

A series of classes was developed to be helpful to the youth of today to excel their skill sets for both work and play. The first lesson was table etiquette with 4 children followed by dinner at a restaurant. The children took part in a Mardi Gras/Valentine, lesson teaching the Catholic history of the holidays through stories and crafts. Six children made SMART goals to “maintain a 3.5+ GPA” club, which has developed into the biggest competition with the group. Eleven children received lessons involving interviewing etiquette for school entrance, essay writing for education assignments and easy cooking classes. The members of Court Mother Mary Lange #2441 look forward to the future “Next Level” to come.

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**Louisiana and South Dakota State Courts**

**State Regent: Connie Dronette      State Regent: Brenda Anderson**

**JCDA Growth**

Louisiana and South Dakota's goal was to increase JCDA Courts in their states. **Calling all Girls – Where are YOU?**, Louisiana, where many JCDA courts had disbanded now has ten courts with five potential new courts. The King's Princess is the theme of their JCDA State Convention to be held in August. Their last convention was in 1983. **Building-One-At-A-Time**, South Dakota, their goal to grow. They doubled their numbers – they now have two courts. They are celebrating small steps towards progress as well as big gains.

**Maryland and New York State Courts**

**State Regent: Marguerite Collins      State Regent: Heather Rave**

**JCDA Workshops**

Maryland and New York held Junior workshops (neither state has a State JCDA Court). The focus of **Godly Ladybugs**, Maryland, was to present how we are ladies of God tying this with the legend of the ladybug, They spoke about how they should talk, dress, walk, sit, act and think to please God. The focus of the **JCDA Forum**, New York, was JCDA spiritual growth and teen connectivity, Court to Court across the State. JCDA Counselors, CDA members and Chaplains assisted in these workshops. The JCDA members enjoyed their day meeting with Juniors in their state.

**Texas State Court**

**State Regent: Rosie Stockwell**

**Cameron Park Colonias After School Program**

The Cameron Park Colonias After School Program was adopted by the State JCDA in 2013 and was voted to continue this year. They learned that the after-school program was in need of sporting equipment, as they had none, and educational board type games. The officers sponsored "Games, Brains, and Goals." All CDA and JCDA courts were asked to participate in this project. They were able to set up wish lists at Target and Wal-Mart where courts were able to go online and donate items on the wish list. In December JCDA and CDA members delivered all the balls, equipment and games along with many snacks that had been donated throughout the state.



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**Court St. Rose de Lima #1194, Duplessis, LA**

**State Chairman: Linda Portie**

**Beautification of The Mary Garden at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church**

In an effort to provide cleanup to our local church parish, Our Lady of the Holy rosary church, after the flood of 2016, our Junior Catholic Daughter court along with family members and some of our local court members worked to beautify the Mary Garden located in front of the church cemetery. JCDA members prepped the garden area, shopped for plants and supplies, pressured washed existing fence and lattice archway, and cleaned out overgrown bushes. JCDA members met a second time to prepare ground, plant new plants, and spread mulch on newly planted area.

A prayer service to anoint the new garden was led by Father.

**Court Immaculate #1719, Dallas, TX**

**State Co-Chairman: Peggy Supak**

**Baby Shower for White Rose Women's Center**

They had a baby shower with three work stations: Burp cloth decorating, onesie decorating and card making. Each member had the opportunity to decorate a onesie and a burp cloth. The Juniors also made cards of encouragement for the moms in crisis pregnancy. After they made the items, they prayed over them. The girls were very serious about making their gifts. The girls learned to show unconditional love to others they did not even know.

**Court Charles Borromeo # 2723, Pikesville, MD**

**State Chairman: Debbie Lattus**

**BABIES**

Juniors voted to take BABIES as their charitable project and wanted to knit newborn hats. Since many of the girls and both leaders did not know how to knit, they needed help. A mother came in and taught the girls and leaders how to knit and make a simple hat. Some of the girls received looms for presents, and another mom showed the girls how to make hats on the loom. One girl had a senior home in her area help knit hats. As of their February 16, 2018 meeting they had made forty-four hats and have fourteen hats in progress!! Each hat was a sacrifice of time, and each girl said a prayer for the baby that would wear the hat.