



*Wishing you all a blessed Christmas
and a most joyous New Year
as we thank you for your dedication to
the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.*

National Chaplain

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan

National Clergy Consultant

Reverend Jeffrey Maurer

National Regent

Helene Shepard

National

Regent-Elect

Olga Samaniego

First Vice

National Regent

Sherry Nilles

Second Vice

National Regent

Vickie Feist

National

Secretary-Treasurer

Emily Guilherme

Carolyn Bachmann

Carol Bogacz

Peggy Guckin

National Directors

Susan Hicks

Rose Holschlag

Susan Moné'

Arline Rich

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Essie Walker

National Office Manager

Martha Hamboussi

National Office Staff

Alyssa Brady

Gigi Barecca

Gloria Linley

Kelly Miller

Joe Delgado

National Public Relations

Tom Panas

A special Mass of Thanksgiving, for the intention of all members of CDA, will be said by National Clergy Consultant Rev. Jeffrey Maurer at St. Mary's Church in Washingtonville, NY.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

NATIONAL QUARTERLY

DECEMBER 2017



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National Regent's Message

Helene Shepard,
National Regent



Dear Catholic Daughters,

I must start this letter off by thanking all State and local courts as well as individual members for their generous response to the appeal for our CDA Sisters who have been affected by the natural disasters: Harvey, Irma, Jose, Maria, as well as the droughts, flooding and the fires. Sometimes it is difficult to understand the suffering that others endure. We pray that their faith will become stronger in these times of crisis.

It will be months before our sisters in Texas, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, California, Florida, South Dakota, Iowa, Arkansas, and Wisconsin experience any signs of improvement. I am sure the holidays will be very different for them this year. They definitely need our continued prayers and encouragement.

We are thankful for both the financial assistance as well as the prayers that will give them the courage and strength to go on.

On a brighter note, September has been a memorable month for Catholic Daughters. The entire National Board was in New York for a board meeting, lunch at The National Office and the SOAR Dinner at the New York Athletic Club. I had the privilege of presenting a \$10,000 check in the name of every Catholic Daughter to SOAR - Save Our Aging Religious.

It is through the generosity of each of our members that we are able to support this charity. Our aging religious are a worthy cause and are responsible for helping many of us define our values and become the people we are today. It is a time for us to give back.

Although I have attended the SOAR Dinner for many years, this year was very special for me. I was honored to receive the Inaugural Dorothy Day Award. I accepted this award in the name of every Catholic Daughter. I trace my

drive to be a woman of service back to Deacon John, of happy memory, who uttered the words, "I Come to Serve" when he was ordained.

It was very touching to have so many Catholic Daughters attend the dinner along with National office staff and our National Clergy Consultant, Fr. Maurer as well as the New York State Chaplain, Father Newcomb.

September also marked the first wall raising of the 42nd Habitat House, which will take place in Texas. Hopefully, we will be able to attend the blessing and presentation of the keys. Good luck with this CDA build which will going on for the next several months.

Enclosed you will find important information about the National Convention which will take place in Sioux Falls, South Dakota next July. Please read that information and make plans to attend.

In speaking of convention, it is a time for potential leaders to begin to discern about running for National Director or a National Officer. If you feel the call, say yes and begin to work on your resume.

Lastly, I want to thank you for your prayers, cards and well wishes during my unexpected surgery in September. The love and concern was overwhelming and it was definitely the prayers that helped me at this time.

With each Nativity scene I see I am reminded of the miraculous event that occurred many years ago. I am also reminded of the miracles that happen today, may we all have the eyes to see them not only during this season but all year long.

A Joy filled Christmas to each of you as we continue to serve the Lord with Gladness.

In Unity and Charity,

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Christmas Past

Fr. Jeffrey Maurer
National Clergy Consultant

Dear Catholic Daughters,

It's always tempting at Christmas to "go back"...

To go back and think about Christmases as a kid, memories of gifts, memories of family members who are no longer with us...but these are things we can only access as memory...not in real life. However, if our memories can bring such comfort and peace, can't real life have the potential to be more so?

Christmas should tempt us to "go back" to Him but only so that we can move forward with Him. It should tempt us to return, continue and deepen your friendship not simply with the "newborn King" but with the Lord and the Catholic Faith He has given you...at the price of His Life.

So many will "come Home for Christmas" but will they stay home? Pray for those family members who are only loosely connected to the Faith. Perhaps invite them on a "non-Christmas" day—to an Adoration, to confession when you go, or take up a sacrifice or penance for them. This might be the best Christmas gift of all!

While we are tempted to go back in memories let's also answer the call to move forward with the Lord, whose birth we celebrate today and whose life we intend to follow. Merry Christmas Catholic Daughters!

Sincerely in Unity & Charity,
Father Jeffrey J. Maurer

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Be sure to add the dates for the
2018 National Convention To Your
New Calendar For 2018!

Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Convention Dates: July 18 - 22, 2018

Tour Dates: July 15 - 17 & July 22 - 24
(Special 2 day Pre and Post-Convention Tours!)

Special Concert: July 17

Campus Courts

Peggy Guckin
National Campus Court Chairman

Last spring five members from two Campus Courts submitted applications for the \$2000 scholarship given by National. I would like to congratulate Gabrielle Smyth, the recipient of the 2017 Campus Court Scholarship. Gabrielle attends Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

If you will be attending college in 2018, why don't you consider applying? The 2018 scholarship application is on the National website. Next spring, you will be busy with finals, why not start working on your application now? There are only four requirements in applying for the scholarship, and two of them are: 1) a list of reasons for applying and 2) your autobiography. I look forward to receiving many applications this year, and my judges are eagerly looking forward to the task. The winner will be announced at the convention. Will you be there?

School has been in session now a few months, and I am sure you are all busy with your classes and with CDA. Please send me information on your court's activities, so I can share it with the other campus courts.

Before you know it, the 57th Biennial National Convention will be upon us. Are you planning on attending in Sioux Falls, South Dakota? Consider arriving prior to the convention to see the sights, and more importantly, attend the workshops. The National Board is working hard on preparing their presentations. At the Campus Court Workshop, I would like to have a discussion and to hear from you first hand all the good works you are doing, what you would like us to do, and what we can do to make things better. We hope that this workshop discussion will be helpful not only to other campus courts, but also to State Courts who do not currently have a Campus Court and would like to start one in their areas.

My Dear Catholic Daughters,

As you have probably noticed, Christmas falls on a Monday this year, meaning that Christmas Eve also doubles as the Fourth Sunday of Advent. I am sure that many of you take part in that beautiful tradition of celebrating Christmas by going to Midnight Mass. It is one of the liturgies that I most look forward to celebrating at St. Patrick's Cathedral: the cathedral is packed, the music is beautiful, and we commemorate the birth of our Savior – what could be better! However, the anticipation of Christmas and the often hectic, busy plans we make for Christmas Eve can risk obscuring our reflection on the readings at Mass earlier that day, from the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

One of the wonderful things about the Season of Advent is the sense of anticipation that builds each week. As the candles of the Advent wreath are lighted, we know that Christmas is drawing ever closer. The readings we hear at Mass each weekend also help in our preparation. In the Gospel on the First Sunday of Advent, we are told to “Be watchful!”, which calls to mind the meaning of Advent, the coming of Jesus into the world. For the Second and Third Sundays of Advent, the Gospels always speak of John the Baptist, the great prophet who prepared the way for Christ. Finally, and let's not overlook this one, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the beautiful passage from the beginning of Luke's Gospel: the Annunciation of the angel Gabriel to Mary that she will give birth to Jesus.

“Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.” First of all, what a great reminder to pray the Rosary! Advent and the Christmas season are especially good times to commit to this prayer, as we hear the Joyful Mysteries proclaimed in several of our liturgies. This is also the time of year we think about our New Year's resolutions. Well, Advent is the beginning of the Church's liturgical year, so how about resolving to pray the Rosary more beginning in Advent? Or, if you already pray it daily, that we ask God for the grace to enter even more deeply into the mysteries of our salvation? I know it's a busy day, but I suggest setting aside time on Christmas Eve to pray the Rosary for the intention of all the wonderful work done by the Catholic Daughters of America and that through Mary's intercession, God will continue to bless many lives by your efforts.

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” Mary's response to the angel's greeting was understandably one of confusion and concern – the Gospel says she was “greatly troubled”. How often are we troubled by events in the world, challenges in our families, personal difficulties we experience? And yet, we must always take assurance in Gabriel's response: Do not

A Message from the National Chaplain



be afraid. I always think of St. John Paul II saying these same words at the beginning of his pontificate and how fearlessly he himself spread the Gospel through his leadership and holy life. The reason we should not be afraid is the same reason we celebrate Christmas: God is present in our lives! During Advent we sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel, which Saint Matthew tells us means, God with us. Just as God became flesh in the person of Jesus and walked the earth, so the Holy Spirit is with us every day to guide us, and Jesus is truly present in the Holy Eucharist for the sustenance of all our needs. Do not be afraid!

“May it be done to me according to your word.” Mary's response, her fiat, is what brought about the Incarnation and remains the ultimate model for all of us today. In the face of uncertainty, confusion, and fear, Mary's response to God was yes, your will be done. What faith and trust in God she showed! There are things in life we hope for, or questions we ask God to answer. But when we pray, we must always follow Mary's example and seek above all to do God's will. If you find this challenging, don't forget – Mary, Mother of the Church and our Mother, is always there to intercede on our behalf with her Son. So ask for her help too!

In this joyous time of year, I renew my gratitude for all that you do as Catholic Daughters of America. Your commitment to sharing God's love with others is reflective of the Christmas spirit that fills the air. May God bless you and your families, and may we take heart in the message of the angel Gabriel: Do not be afraid!, and Mary's response: Let it be done to me according to your word.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas, I am
Faithfully in Christ,
Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
National Chaplain

Four Suggestions for Positive Leadership

Sherry Nilles, National Leadership Chairman

1. Rule-making and the heart

Every organization needs rules to keep the group running smoothly. Catholic Daughters have the bylaws and Tools of the Trade as their guides. The important word in that sentence is guide. Because this organization is made up of human beings, sometimes it is better to remember that the members are volunteers who willingly give of their time. It is unrealistic to expect a member who is experiencing a distressing time in her life to be at an event or help with that event even though they have been assigned to be there. Anytime you must decide between the policy and the heart, go with the heart.

2. Expenses and training

Training for new officers can seem expensive. Yet focusing just on the cost is counterproductive to having officers who are trained and competent in serving their court. Encourage all members, but especially the officers to attend workshops and conventions presented by the state and national officers. Support court officers financially also. Put the cost of travel, lodging and registration in your court budget. Your investment will be rewarded with outstanding officers and members more willing to take on a new office because of this support.

3. Asking all or just a select few

Every court has that one person who can set up the bazaar, do all the advertising, manage the bake sale, and run the lunch stand. She has her clique who works with her and "outsiders" are really not made to feel welcome. Be certain that all members feel they can contribute to this venture. Members who feel insignificant will soon lose interest and could become lost members of the court. New ideas should always be encouraged and welcomed.

4. Controlling or coaching

Asking a member to be a Circle of Love chairman or to be the chairman of an event or project can be rewarding to that member if she is allowed to use her own creative resources. The best leaders will coach the member rather than only pointing out the mistakes that could be or were made. Coaching allows the leader to accentuate strengths and improve weaknesses. Coaching also gives the member courage to tackle another task and grow in their love for our wonderful organization.

Continue to be positive and helpful to all members. Enjoy your leadership position.

Education Contest Update

Marialice Sagan
National Education Chairman

In the September Quarterly you will find the information and forms that you need for the 2018 contest.

As you look at the rules, you should notice an addition to the rules on the first page. This addition states that "local, state and national officers and education chairmen and all judges are not eligible to enter this CDA contest". This rule will not affect students but does affect adults who plan to enter the contest.

Now is the time to determine your local court deadline. It needs to be no later than Feb. 15, 2018. State deadline is March 15, 2018 and national deadline is April 15, 2018. Let this be a time of joy as we work for the Lord.

So let's stop
condemning each other.
Decide instead to live in
such a way that you will
not cause another
believer to stumble
and fall. — Romans 14:13



1903 Society

Sherry Nilles, National Chairman 1903 Society

Our National Headquarters building is located at 10 West 71st Street in Manhattan's historic Upper West Side. It is a treasure!

The care and preservation of our Grand Old Lady is the responsibility of every member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

How can I help?

By joining the 1903 Society, you can be a part of that care and preservation.

There is a plan for every pocket. From one payment of \$1903.00 to monthly payments of as little as \$15.85, you can be a member of the 1903 Society.

How do I join?

Send your name, address, payment plan and type of pledge to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, 10 West 71st Street, New York, NY 10023.

All completed pledges will be recognized at the National Convention in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Questions?

Please contact Sherry Nilles, 711 25th Avenue, Sheldon, IA 51201, or phone (712) 348-1218, or email ljnilles@nethtc.net

New brochures are available at no cost. Just contact the National Office.

2018 March for Life theme: Love Saves Lives

January 20, 2018 marks the 45th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade decision by the Supreme Court which legalized abortion in our country.

In advance of the **March for Life**, the Catholic Daughters plan to attend the Solemn **Opening Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life** which will be celebrated at **The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** on Thursday, January 18th at 5:30pm. **National Chaplain Timothy Cardinal Dolan** will be the main celebrant and homilist.

The March itself will begin on the National Mall at approximately 1:00 pm on Friday, January 19th following a musical program and rally.

The Catholic Daughters will meet at the National Museum of Natural History located at the intersection of 10th St. & Constitution Ave. NW, in Washington, DC. We plan to meet in the Atrium Café on the ground floor of the museum at 12:30 pm to warm up before we begin to March at 1:00.

If you are not able to attend please pray for the safety and the success of those attending the 2018 March for Life.

Important items enclosed with this issue

- Christmas Prayer Service
- National Projects & Charities News
- Operation Morningstar Newsletter
- JCDA Sunday Proclamation

BOGO! or Bust!

Olga Samaniego, National Regent-Elect;
National Chairman for Membership and Court Development

It is easy to tell when people are determined to accomplish something. They just won't give up. Everything that is worthwhile in our world has been accomplished by people who, with the help of God, were determined to keep going no matter what challenges they were facing.

Our sisterhood is facing a great challenge—one of survival. We are in danger of losing our great organization. That loss would be a significant loss to Catholic women everywhere. We would lose our historical identity, we would lose our many avenues of service, we would lose the significant voice we have as a sisterhood of 65,000 women of faith, and, most importantly, we would lose our ability to be a powerful, collective witness to our faith in Jesus Christ and to the love He has for his people.

Now is the time to meet this challenge. We cannot wait, or it may get to be too late. Have you invited your friends, relatives, and neighbors to join your CDA court? If not, why not? Don't be shy. There are women in your parish who are looking for the opportunity to serve. This Christmas season, give them the gift of opportunity. Encourage them to use their gifts, and show them how. Every single court needs to be involved in membership—Bring one; Gain one! You can double your membership just by being welcoming and by ensuring that your court is vital and active. Women want to join other women who are making a difference.

State Regents, are you actively looking for the opportunity to open a new court? It would be nice if they would just fall into our laps—and sometimes they do. However, most new courts are developed because someone steps out in faith and

refuses to give up. It may take several calls to set up a meeting with a pastor, or maybe it will take showing up in person to ask for that meeting, but don't give up. Once you have that meeting, make sure you are prepared. Know the ABC's of CDA! Be enthusiastic, and be proud of your Order. Explain the gift of service that you are offering to the women of the parish, and talk about the good they will do when they are established. Many priests are prepared to love CDA because of connections to their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and the other wonderful women in their lives. They just haven't thought of us in a while—help them remember!

Our sisterhood has faced and met significant challenges over the years—we've survived world wars and the Great Depression; we have been active and served God's people through years of social unrest and turmoil. Today we still have unrest, and we face the added challenges of rebuilding our courts and communities in Houston, Puerto Rico, Florida, and California. We've survived and will continue to survive through faith and determination. Once upon a time, people determined to find a better life would hit the road with a sign on their suitcases or cars that read, "California or Bust" or "Pikes Peak or Bust." I think that was their way of saying, "complete success or nothing." Failure was not an option. Failure is not an option for us either. So, sisters, let's hit our knees, ask for direction and guidance, and let's get moving. Together, under God and under the protection of our Patroness, Mary, we Can Do Anything!

Prayers needed

Please keep the families of the following and all recently deceased CDA members in your prayers:
Past National Director Mary Jo Kozar, who passed on to her heavenly reward on September 19, 2017. May she rest in peace.

Please lift in prayer all those members and friends of CDA who are in need of physical and spiritual healing, especially:
Frank Sagan, husband of National Director Marialice Sagan, National Director Carol Bogacz, and M. Joan McKenna, Past National Regent. May they soon enjoy good health.

Please keep praying for our CDA Sisters who have experienced the devastation from recent natural disasters around the country. May God grant the courage and strength to recover as soon as possible.

Semi Annual Dues

By now you have received your semi-annual dues bill from the National Office. Please pay this promptly.

Remember, a vote of the court is not necessary to pay this invoice. Please do not send dues payments in anticipation of the invoice as we cannot apply payment before the invoice is created and numbers often change.

Be sure to make all checks payable to: Catholic Daughters of the Americas and indicate the invoice number in the memo field.

57th Biennial National Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Will You Answer the Call to Serve?

Conventions are important events for any organization. We come together to elect new leadership, to build a future, to gain knowledge, and to meet old friends and make new ones.

The 57th Biennial National Convention of the Order will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, July 17 to 21, 2018. Look for the **Call to Convention** in your mailbox in December.

You will be receiving your form with the number of delegates for your court in a separate mailing. The form for delegates and alternates does not require a list of names; however, it does require that all courts return the form noting your intentions regarding representation at the convention. Please return this form no later than March 15, 2018.

Would you like to serve on the 2020 National Nominating Committee?

The first order of business at the National Convention in Sioux Falls, SD, will be the election of members to the 2020 Nominating Committee. Each state may nominate a member of their state to be on the ballot for this Committee.

Have you attended National CDA events that make you familiar with many qualified members across the Order? Why not consider running for the 2020 Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee has the awesome task of reviewing candidate resumés and choosing the best people to serve this great organization.

Are you considering running for National Office?

Now is the time to get your state's endorsement and prepare your flyer. Being on the National Board is a privilege and a great responsibility. It takes time and a great deal of commitment. It is a job, and it requires work from each board member. If you are thinking about a position, review schedule for due dates and materials needed.

Please give your state officers time to consider your request for endorsement. It is the responsibility of the state officers to choose the best person to endorse. Get request in early to your State Board.

The 2018 Nominating Committee

The following were elected at the National Convention in July 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA:

Kathy Kennedy (ND)
Le Ann Brand (MD)
Melodie Brunt (TX)
Shirley Hall (PA)
Dawn Fortenberry (LA)
Maureen Trainor (MA)
Mary Saunders (OR)
Alternates
Judy Smith (VT)
Belinda Swager (NC)

The Chairman is:

Kathy Kennedy
115 West Brewster St.
Harvey, ND 58341
kennedycda@gmail.com
(701) 324-2328

All resumés are to be sent to Kathy Kennedy no later than March 1st of the convention year.



Just what do National Officers and Directors do?
Do you have what it takes? What are the responsibilities entailed?
Does holding National Office require any special skills?
Funny you should ask!

Qualifications for a National Officer and Director

1. Be a current and enthusiastic member of Catholic Daughters of the Americas.
2. Be a current or Past National Director, or a current or Past State Regent and a Catholic who publicly obeys the laws of the church and in accordance with these can licitly (in accordance with Church Law) receive the Eucharist. (Bylaw Article VI, National Court, Sec. 3B.)
3. Be supported by her state court with a majority of the state officers giving written approval to endorse her as a candidate for National Director.
4. Be able to communicate via email and willing to respond to emails from the National Board/Regent/Office in a timely manner.
5. Be computer literate and able to write reports on a computer.
6. Be able and willing to travel to board meetings, state and national conventions, assigned state board meetings and the State and Territorial Officers Conference.
7. Be able to make presentations to groups.
8. Have knowledge of the **Bylaws** and the **Tools of the Trade**.
9. It is strongly suggested that at least your first term as State Regent be completed before applying for a National Director position in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.
10. Not more than two (2) members of the National Board shall be from the same state, with one as a National Officer and the other as a National Director.

Duties of a National Officer and Director

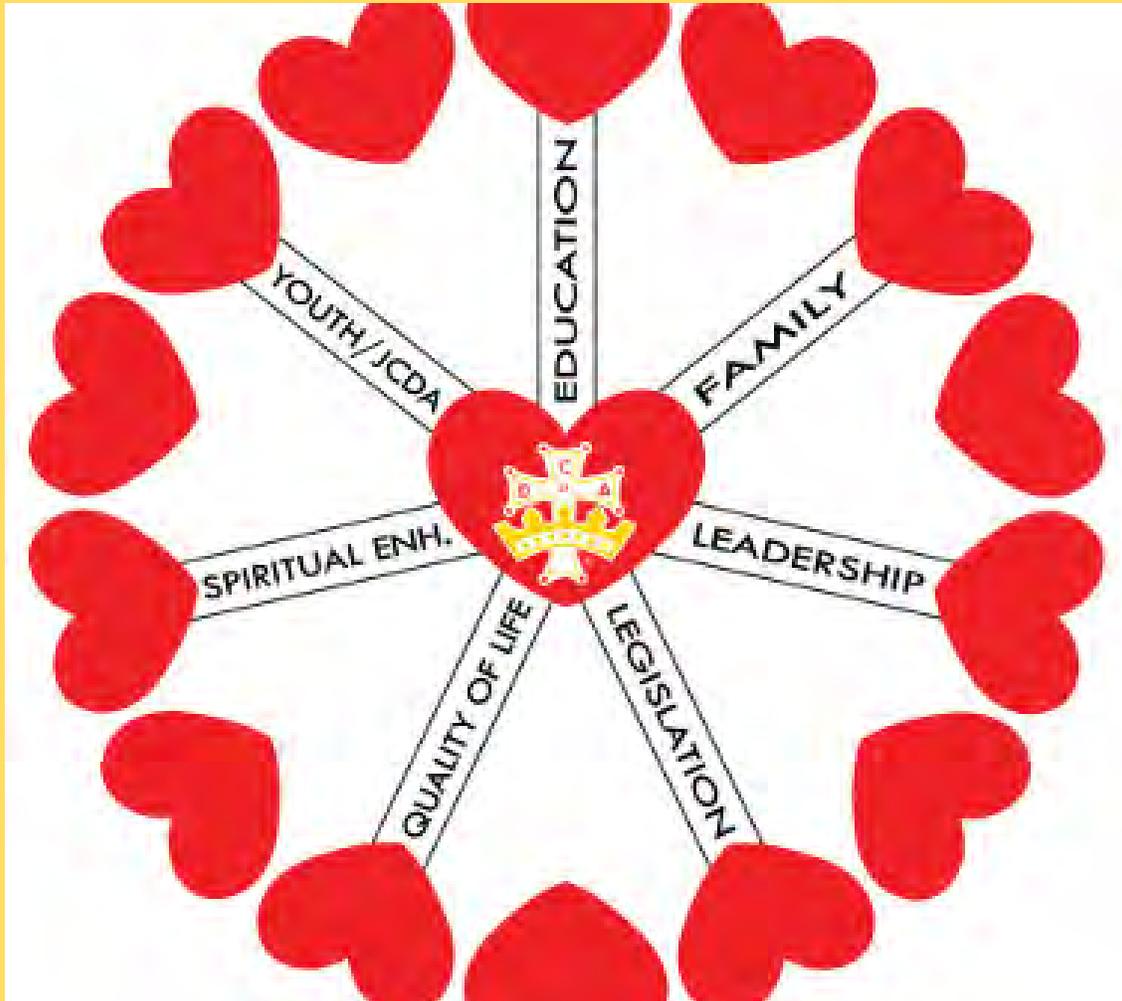
- A. Attend at least one board meeting a year of the state or territorial court under her jurisdiction. Permission must always be granted by the National Regent for travel which is to be reimbursed by national funds.
- B. Attend the state conventions of the states to which she is assigned and the State Officer Conference.
- C. Attend national board meetings twice a year and whenever a meeting is called by the National Regent
- D. Maintain regular communication with the State Regents in the states assigned to her and write geographical reports on each state for each national board meeting. These reports are distributed at the national board meetings.
- E. Write articles for *SHARE* and the National Quarterly on topics assigned by the National Regent. The articles require approval by the National Regent prior to publication.
- F. Serve on or chair at least one committee of the national board and/or one area of the Circle of Love.
- G. Prepare a 45-minute to one-hour speech on national issues to be delivered at any state convention she attends. The contents of the speech require approved by the National Regent.
- H. Complete other duties as assigned by the National Regent.

Specific Qualifications for National Officer

1. Must have been a National Director.
2. Be able to write for the National Quarterly and for *SHARE*.
3. Be able to travel frequently.
4. Have the ability to speak publicly and present workshops.

Watch for detailed Information about the 57th Biennial National Convention in your mailboxes in December.

NATIONAL PROJECTS & CHARITIES DISASTER FUND DISBURSEMENTS



HOPE THROUGH GIVING DISASTER RELIEF

Through your court's generosity & continued support, CDA has collected nearly \$30,000 and donated \$2000 to Bishops in each of the affected areas:

- Orange, CA (fire)
- St. Petersburg, FL
- Davenport, IA
- Rapid City, SD (drought)
- Beaumont, TX
- Victoria, TX
- Virgin Islands
- San Francisco, CA (fire)
- Tallahassee, FL
- Dubuque, IA
- Sioux Falls, SD (drought)
- Corpus Christi, TX
- Madison, WI
- Peru (floods)
- Santa Rosa, CA (fire)
- Venice, FL
- Omaha, NE
- Austin, TX
- Galveston-Houston, TX
- Wheeling-Charleston, WV
- Puerto Rico (5 dioceses)*

**CDA DONATED BATTERIES AND FLASHLIGHTS
AS THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE FULL POWER UNTIL DECEMBER*

**THERE IS STILL TIME FOR YOU TO GIVE TO OUR PROJECTS & CHARITIES. ALL FUNDS
GO DIRECTLY TO HELPING THOSE IN MOST NEED. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY!**



Our Christmas Gifts

Supplies: A small nativity set with a Baby Jesus in a manger, a small heart, a picture of a loved one or a family, a small pair of shoes, a small calendar, a coin purse, a candle, an lyrics for a favorite Christmas carol. Christmas music can be played softly in the background. Gifts are placed in front of the Baby Jesus by a member as the reader speaks.

By: Olga Samaniego, National Chairman of Spiritual Enhancement, National Regent-Elect

Leader Father, we come together in anticipation and joy. This holy time of year is often celebrated with the bringing of gifts. We follow the lead of the Magi, and tonight we bring our gifts to You.

Reader 1 Lord, we give You this heart as a symbol of our promise that you will be first in our hearts. We recognize that we have many responsibilities, and we are sorry for the times that we have let other things overshadow You in importance. You are our God, and in you, "...we live and breathe and have our being." Acts 17:28

Reader 2 Lord, we give You this picture of our loved one(s) as a symbol of our trust. We place those we love and all that we hold dear at Your feet. We trust in Your infinite wisdom and in Your mercy. We are secure in the knowledge that Your love for them is even greater than ours, and we know that You will hold them gently in the palm of your hand. We give everyone and everything we love to You who gave to us all we have.

Reader 3 Lord, we give You this pair of shoes as a symbol of our willingness to walk in Your footsteps. We ask only that You make straight our path and lead us in the direction that we should go. We don't need to know where we are going or even how we are to get there; we only need to know that we follow You.

Reader 4 Lord, we give you this calendar as a symbol of our time and schedules. We recognize that life is short, and we want to use our time to complete the mission that you have entrusted to each of us. Teach us to use our time wisely for we know that, "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field." Isaiah 40:6

Reader 5 Lord, as we give you this coin purse, we give You sovereignty over our treasure. We know that our personal and our court's finances are limited, and we know that there is much need in the world. Help us to have a generous spirit, but help us to spend wisely. Show us where we can do the most good, and protect us from selfishness and greed.

Reader 6 Lord we give You this candle as a symbol of our willingness to shine your light of love in the coming year. We promise to do all we can to help people out of the darkness of suffering and fear, and above all, we promise to help them to know that they are loved.

All: Lord, please accepts these gifts from our hearts. Perfect them and make them worthy for the King of Kings and the Lord of Lord. Let everything we do today and always be for your honor and for your glory. (Sing a favorite Christmas carol, together.)



HHS Reverses Course: Will Protect Citizens 'From Conception to Natural Death'

In October, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a new "strategic plan" that will set department goals for 2018 to 2022. The plan completely reverses course from the previous administration and declares that human life begins "at conception."

Under the previous administration, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius promoted abortion and required health care plans to pay for contraceptive, sterilization, and abortion medication coverage. Those HHS

mandates have been rescinded, and instead, life and religious liberty will be defended.

Under the first goal of "Reform, Strengthen, and Modernize the Nation's Health Care," the new strategic plan states its "ultimate goal is to improve healthcare outcomes for all people, including the unborn." Protecting citizens "from conception to natural death" is one of its top priorities.

Little Sisters of the Poor Claim Victory

The Little Sisters of the Poor achieved victory in their case against the HHS mandate.

According to Becket, the law firm defending them, "...the Little Sisters are nuns who spend their lives caring for the elderly poor. Six years ago, the federal government issued a rule requiring the Little Sisters to provide insurance coverage for contraceptives, sterilization, and abortion drugs in violation of their religious beliefs—or pay millions in fines to the IRS.

"The Little Sisters refused, and Becket took their case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. The Supreme Court ordered the government to work out a solution, and...the Department of Health and Human Services issued a new rule exempting the Little Sisters and others like them from the mandate. The



Photo courtesy of Becketlaw.org

new rule fulfills the Supreme Court's order and President Trump's promise earlier this year to protect the Little Sisters.

"Now that the new rule is in place, the Little Sisters expect to get final, binding relief from the courts so they can go back to fulfilling their mission of serving the elderly poor."

Abortions Decrease When People Pray

According to a 40 Days for Life podcast, abortions definitely decrease when people are praying outside an abortion facility.

The podcast said, "Former Planned Parenthood workers say as many as 75 percent of their clients don't show up for abortion appointments when people are outside praying.

"Fewer paying customers will mean more abortion centers going out of business."

Whether or not there is an official 40 Days for Life prayer vigil in your area, praying in front of abortion clinics for an end to abortion truly does save lives.

Join CDA at the March for Life

Catholic Daughters will again walk in the March for Life Friday, January 19, in Washington, DC. See details elsewhere in this mailing.

Work to Defund Planned Parenthood

It is time to stop Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, from receiving more than half a billion dollars a year in taxpayer funding.

As the Senate continues to debate federal healthcare legislation, contact both of your senators again. Tell them to protect unborn children by voting to defund Planned Parenthood and to stop taxpayer subsidies used to purchase health insurance that pays for abortion.

USCCB Commends Trump Administration for Affirming Life & Religious Liberty

The United States' Conference of Catholic Bishops has commended the Trump Administration for its recent rulings that defend life and protect religious liberty. In an October 20 press release, Kimberly Baker, who works in the office of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities wrote the following:

"In early October, the U.S. government made two announcements affirming the importance of religious liberty in our country.

"First, the Attorney General issued a memorandum offering guidance on "Federal Law Protections for Religious Liberty." The Attorney General's memorandum affirms the importance of protecting the freedom of faith-based organizations to operate in accordance with their religious missions.

"Second, the Trump Administration announced a broad religious and moral exemption from the current mandate of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requiring health insurance coverage for various forms of contraception, sterilization, and abortion-inducing drugs and devices.

"The broadened exemption from the HHS mandate will protect Catholic and other faith-based institutions--as well as non-sectarian groups like the March for Life that have moral objections to participating in abortion--from being forced to cover items in their health plans that go against their deeply held religious beliefs or moral convictions."

"If religious freedom is not protected so that faith-based organizations and individuals can live according to their religious beliefs, we risk a slippery slope of state-imposed coercion and a gradual loss of freedom for all. History has shown that suppressing religious practices of ordinary citizens can lead to other civil liberties being taken away--such as free speech and freedom of assembly.

"As a society, we recognize an individual person's right to religious freedom; it logically follows that this same freedom can be exercised peacefully by a group of individuals and the faith-based institutions and organizations they operate. It is a serious violation of freedom for a government to compel a faith-based organization to adhere to a law or policy that goes against the very beliefs it was founded upon. Such compulsion essentially erases that aspect of the institution's religious identity and suppresses it unjustly."

"Real progress is allowing faith-based organizations to be true to their religious identities and have the freedom to serve by contributing to the good of society in various ways. The recent policy developments allow Catholic organizations to continue being faithful to their religious mission and identity, especially regarding the sanctity of life. While it is our hope that the sacredness of human life be respected in all areas of society, we are certainly within our rights to live and operate according to our beliefs within our own Catholic organizations. Therefore, the Administration's recent announcements pertaining to religious liberty are proper affirmations of this freedom."



by William May

Marriage Reality for Children

The corrupting influences on our children about love and marriage start long before kindergarten. Parents need to start talking about their marriage with their children early and reinforce the reality of its meaning and beauty to them.

Every child and every situation is different, but here are some tips that might help as you develop your own strategy.

The reality of marriage is best explained by reinforcing what children already know – you're irreplaceable to

them and in their eyes, their mom and dad are irreplaceable to each other. They can't imagine them apart. But explain, that does not happen by accident, only by following God's plan.

"First, mom and dad chose to make ourselves irreplaceable to each other. That is what marriage is and it prepared us to make a family for you. God's got a pretty good plan, don't you think?"

It is good to talk about the importance of kinship that they will recognize because it has been stamped on their hearts by God. Who has Daddy's eyes and Mommy's nose? St John Paul II taught about how important it is to recognize the intergenerational aspects of marriage and family—everyone irreplaceable to each other.

Make yours and the grandparents' wedding anniversaries special events for the family and the children because of the choices that started the ongoing circles of irreplaceability. Make it a celebration of God's plan for creation. Find more Quick Reflections at TakeBackMarriage.org

JUNIOR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

2018 JCDA Day Proclamation

Whereas, the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas was established on February 22, 1926 to create a National Youth Program for Catholic girls ages 6 through 18, and

Whereas, the goals and objectives of the JCDA program are divided into a Threefold Program of Message, Service, and Community including the motto "Be Useful" and a standard of "love God, serve others, live nobly," and

Whereas, each Junior Catholic Daughter, having an active faith in God, experience personal and spiritual growth through liturgy, prayer and faith based activities, and

Whereas, each Junior Catholic Daughter participates in enriching lives through service to others in their family, parish, community and world following Christ's example, "What I have done, so you must do." (John 13:1315)

Whereas, opportunities should be provided for each Junior Catholic Daughter for a lifelong journey leading to the development of leadership skills, therefore be it

Resolved, each Junior Catholic Daughter seek meaningful behaviors with Joy and gladness to fulfill the JCDA Program, and be it further

Resolved, that Sunday, February 18, 2018 be observed as the Ninety-Second Annual National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day.

Signed _____ in the City of _____

This _____ day of February, 2018