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Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

FEBRUARY 2021



REGENTS MESSAGE

My Dear Sisters,

As we put the Holiday Season behind us we now turn our full focus towards our **52nd Biennial State Convention**. First Call went out in mid-January and by now Regents and District Deputies should be receiving the Call to Convention. **Please pay close attention to all of the due dates;** especially the submission of delegates/alternates to me by February 15th and Papers for officers or nominating committee to Maureen Trainor by February 1st.



Even though this year's convention will be **VIRTUAL** we still need to be mindful of the deadlines so that everything will run smoothly. It is my hope that you will strongly consider joining us on April 24 & 25, 2021 not only to conduct our biennial business and elect our new state board for the 21/23 term, but to join us in Sisterhood. We are working very hard to bring you a spiritual, fun and educational convention. This is **YOUR** chance to have your voices heard.

Please contact your Regents, DD's or convention co-chairs Linda Coletti or Judi Shooter with any questions. A lot of info will be coming your way in the next two months so pay close attention.

I look forward to seeing all of your faces in April. Your State Regent, Nancy Meehan



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

A Word from Fr. Peter DeFazio, Chaplain

MANY NEW BEGINNINGS -

Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, spoke to an audience of Catholic Daughters in October of 1972 in Washington, D.C. to mark National Catholic Daughters Day. She asked the CDA members to continue to “give to our brothers and sisters throughout the world as if once more Jesus had come into the world cold, hungry, and alone.”

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen addressed the delegates at the 24th Biennial Convention held 20 years earlier, in 1952. He said, “You are the Catholic Daughters of America; I would like you to become Catholic Daughters of the World.” He urged the CDA membership to extend their charity to the needs of the poor and to the ends of the world. In December, 2015, under National Regent, Shirley Seyfried, the first “world” court was instituted in Kandisi, Kenya. In June, 2016, three courts were instituted in Peru. And as those reading this article know, the name is now Catholic Daughters of the *Americas—plural*, and Our Lady of Guadalupe is recognized nationwide as our Patroness.

Perhaps like many of you reading this, after a bruising and difficult year—with much grieving and loss—at times I struggle to find reasons to maintain an optimism in the future. And yet, the Gospel is constantly calling us to a certain type of optimism that brighter and better days are ahead of us. And that optimism has always characterized the devotional and charitable life of the CDA.



Ultimately, there is the *Parousia*, Christ’s return at the end of time, which St. Paul refers to: “For the world in its present form is passing away.” (1 Corinthians 7:31) But the end of time is not the totality of St. Paul’s turn of phrase, and our hope for the future is not only about Jesus’ return in glory. St. Paul well understood that life is short, and he wished to convey that people should not become overly attached to things— even good things.

Unity and Charity is the motto of the Catholic Daughters. United in love. Devoted to works of charity. Holding true to what both Bishop Sheen and St. Mother Theresa envisioned for this organization. Like St. Paul, the CDA understands that Christians are called to always have an eye on the eternal. But that does not mean we are not hopeful, or striving to make our world a more just place. Our faith teaches us to strive daily with acts of justice and mercy pleasing to God: “Produce good fruits as evidence of your repentance.” (St. John the Baptist, in Luke 3:8)

Hope is one of the three theological virtues, along with faith and love. It is both forward-looking, and grounded in the present. As the Catechism states, hope involves “placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit.” Christian hope “responds to the aspiration to happiness” which God has placed in each one of hearts. It inspires our activities, purifies them, makes them less detached from self-interest or personal gain, and more in-line with the Kingdom of heaven—keeping us from being discouraged, feeling abandoned. As the Catechism also says, through hope, we are “preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity.”



This is really what the mission of the CDA in the world is all about, and so appropriate to recall as we prepare our hearts and minds for Lent, 2021. The Season of Lent calls us to slow down, to pause, and to reflect upon the most important things. To further fine-tune our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jesus in teaching his followers how to pray includes the line, “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10) Of course we pray the Lord’s Prayer daily but these are the lines that speak to unity and charity.

Our beloved nation of the United States now needs healers, peacemakers, and bridge-builders. Unifiers in works of charity worthy of our God. We’ve undergone a calamitous pandemic, and a divisive electoral cycle. Now we need to come together and heal.

Three years ago, Pope Francis stated in his Lenten reflection, that when we perform works of mercy, we “rediscover the joy of God’s plan for creation and for each of us, which is to love him, our brothers and sisters, and the entire world, and to find in this love our true happiness.” And just a little over a year ago, Pope Francis prophetically noted that “a fair and equitable society is a healthier society” and that together we can work towards the Kingdom that Christ inaugurated for us: striving to make our world “a Kingdom of light in the midst of darkness, of justice in the midst of so many outrages, of joy in the midst of so much pain, of healing and salvation in the midst of sickness and death.”

Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving is the focus of every Lent. Almsgiving might require greater sacrifices this year for most of us. But as we read in Tobit: “Perform righteous deeds all the days of your life...Give alms from your possessions...Give in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, do not be afraid to give alms even of that little. You will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity. For almsgiving delivers from death and keeps one from entering into Darkness. Almsgiving is a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who practice it.” (Tobit 4:5-11)

We do long for a better future and aspire to make our world a little bit better each and every day, by doing the next right thing for ourselves and others, and heeding the Biblical wisdom handed on through the Church. A worthy offering.

And this brings us back to the motto of the Catholic Daughters. Both Unity and Charity. Or as Pope Francis stated a few months ago, and I only paraphrase a little bit, in English: *“Let’s make love ‘go viral’ and let’s spread hope in the light of faith.”*

GREETINGS FROM OUR NATIONAL SUPERVISOR



Greetings and blessings to all my CDA sisters,

As we approach the Lenten Season, let us continue to focus on personal and family prayer. Prayer will help us to grow a deeper relationship with Him. It will help to improve our spiritual well-being by eliminating all that is unnecessary and allows us to become more mindful of how God is working in our lives and in our communities. What better ways to prepare our hearts and minds for Easter than to reflect, repent, pray and read the Bible more. Now is the time to take inventory of our spiritual life and grow in it.

It is time to focus attention on to the 52nd Biennial State Convention. Your theme “Serving the Lord through our Faith, Actions and Love” is most fitting during these times. I look forward to the fellowship. Your state officers are working diligently to make your convention one that will continue to be spiritual, fun and productive. Even though this convention will be slightly different, your presence and participation is very much needed.



As we think of the upcoming rebirth of spring, perhaps we can consider that just as the daffodil and tulip bulbs buried in the ground all winter require good soil, water, and sunshine to burst forth and brighten our spring days, so, too, fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are necessary ingredients to nurture our spiritual growth on our Lenten journey to Easter. This excerpt is from the book "Bringing Lent Home with Mother Teresa by Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle.

May you and your family continue to be blessed during the Lenten and Easter season. *Essie*

A MOMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY & REFLECTION

From our Spiritual Enhancement Chairman – Jean Rousseau

In February we celebrate two powerful and moving Feast days of the church, the Presentation of the Lord, also called Candlemas in Europe which is February 2. This was

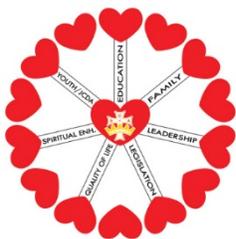


the first day Jesus entered a church. On February 11 we remember the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Bernadette in Lourdes, France. Let us pray to our Mother of Mercy

for miracles of healing and peace today. O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted You know our wants, troubles and sufferings, look with mercy on us. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary of grace where many have obtained a cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and physical. Today, we come with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession the grant of our requests. With gratitude for your favors, we will endeavor to imitate your virtues hoping one day to share in your glory. _ Amen



It is important to now that God guides the course of history, but man chooses it. If we want God, He will lead us. If we don't want God, He will give way to our will and not lead us. Either action by God effects history, so history is not made by man but by God in collaboration with man. "If my people, upon whom my name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray and seek My presence and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from Heaven and pardon their sins and revive their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14



CIRCLE OF LOVE

This month we would like to thank the **First Place** Winner of the **Education** Circle of Love Contest. A big shout out goes to **Court Henry A. Sullivan #584** for their wonderful presentation on **“The Shroud of Turin”**. This entry also won in the Spirituality portion of the contest. Great job Ladies!!!

NATIONAL NEWS

JCDA DAY –

The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be celebrating their 94th Annual JCDA Day on February 21, 2021. The JCDA is dedicated to a program of Message, Service and Community. Let us congratulate our juniors on their special day!



Congratulations of 94 Years of Message, Service & Community

BY-LAW CORRECTION –

Attached to this newsletter is a By-Law correction on Sec. 5 Local and Campus Court Delegates.

NATIONAL REGENT GREETING-

Sherry Nilles, National Regent sends her New Year's Greetings! "The year 2021 is dedicated to St. Joseph, the husband of Mary. May God grant us the same grace to accept 2021, as Joseph accepted Mary into his household and life. Blessed St. Joseph, pray for us. Please continue to pray for an end to the pandemic. God Bless you!" Sherry

"Massachusetts in Action"...

STATE NEWS

GAMBIT –

By Patricia Adams



Numbered Gambit tickets are in the mail to the court Gambit chairmen. You can join any time! Your \$20 ticket is eligible for all prizes. Submit your check (made payable to your court) and the information form at the bottom of the flyer to your court Gambit chairman.



Attention: Regents and court Gambit Chairmen:

I recently moved, so please send Gambit reporting forms and your court check to me at my new address. Mail to former address will be forwarded, but will take longer to arrive. Patricia Adams, 3 Winthrop Street, North Easton, MA 02356

STATE CONVENTION REMINDERS –

Again by now most of the Regents, DD's and chairmen have received the Call to Convention to be shared with the membership.

PLEASE PAY SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE DATES

Some things to remember: You must be in **good standing** with your court to attend convention – this means even though the court may have paid state dues you still need to pay your **court dues**.

Delegates and Alternate names must be sent to me by **February 15th**.

Those running for **State Office** must submit their paperwork to Maureen Trainor by **February 1st**.

Because we are having a virtual convention **Nominations for Nominating Committee** must be made to Maureen Trainor also by **February 1st**. This can be done by sending in your nomination with a one page resume/qualifications summary. We need (5) for this position and (2) alternates so please consider putting in your name. You cannot run if you were on the past Committee.



Once we are in receipt of the above **paper ballots** will be sent to the delegates **for elections**.

CARDINALS GIFT -

It is customary that we present the Cardinal Sean O'Malley with a gift collected at our State Convention. Please forward your donation made payable to "MA State Court" to Pat Adams, First Vice State Regent, 3 Winthrop Street, North Easton, MA 02356.

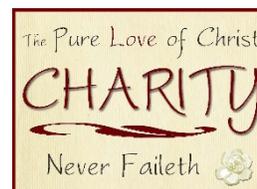
LOCAL NEWS

ST. JOHN EUDES # 987 –

St. John Eudes while not able to meet in person was able to collect \$150.00 and obtained a gift card for the Hudson Coalition which aides need children in Hudson. The card will be going to help out a 15 year old girl.

ST. JOSEPH # 1475 –

St. Joseph held a Rosary in defense of the unborn and held their pennies collection.



ST. CLEMENTINE # 821 -

Ct. Clementine has been busy with various projects over the last few months. They donated 27 gift cards equaling \$505 to St. Raphael Food Pantry and the cards were earmarked for a Shelter housing 6 women and their children. Some pajamas and blankets were also donated.

They also raised money through a Thanksgiving Pie and Annual Wreath Sale to help fund holiday charity gifts. They have a coupon for Troops campaign and will also be collecting Pennies for the unborn.

Once again even though we cannot meet regularly or in person, we are still fundraising, collecting, crocheting and providing for the many in need. Great work Ladies!!!



PRAYER CORNER

The Pope's intention for the month that we pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

The Pope has also declared 2021 to be a year dedicated to St. Joseph

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. Some of the feast celebrated during the month are The Presentation of the Lord, St. Blaise and the blessing of the throats, St. Josephine Bakhita, Our Lady of Lourdes and the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Please pray for all of our CDA Sisters and their families.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul _Amen



In Unity & Charity
Nancy, Pat, Pauline, Carol, Alicia & Father Peter

“Serving the Lord through Our Faith, Actions & Love”



♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥