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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.

MARCH 2021



REGENTS MESSAGE

As we enter the month of March the sun and the temperatures get warmer, the ground begins to thaw showing signs of new life and we spring ahead into daylight savings time.

The whole month of March we are in the Lenten Season of the Church, leading into Holy Week.

All of these events are signs of change and better days to come; Spring, longer days and Easter (Our Lords' Resurrection).

This last year has been challenging to say the least in very many ways, but through our faith, actions and love we have seen it through; and yes positive changes are happening all around us.

We will be coming together virtually next month on April 24 and 25 for our 52nd Biennial State Convention. This also is a time for change; to present new ideas, resolutions, to elect your new State Board and just to share in our sisterhood and have fun.

Your Board hopes you will be a part of this wonderful privilege and opportunity as CDA members.



Please continue to read the news and emails to stay informed of upcoming events and deadlines.

I wish you all a Blessed Holy Season!!

Your State Regent Nancy



CHAPLAIN'S CHAT

Trying to Make the Most of Lent amid Difficult Times by Fr. Peter DeFazio, Chaplain

The season of Lent is special for Catholics. It is a time of preparation for the great feast of Easter, the annual celebration of Christ's Resurrection. Easter is the highest feast day that we have as Catholics, and indeed, every Sunday is a memorial of the day Jesus rose from the dead. But why Lent?

Lent is preparation. And we want to savor every moment of Lent as a day to hit the reset button and rekindle in our hearts a readiness to encounter Christ anew. Lent is a season of renewal. It is also the season of preparation for those adults who will receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, those we welcome as fully initiated members of the Mystical Body of Christ. And Lent for each of us is an opportunity for interior conversion of heart, by prayer, fasting and almsgiving and finally, by renewing our own baptismal promises at Easter.

Lent lasts for 40 days, and it is hard to avoid the deep biblical significance of this number. Of course, we accompany Jesus into the desert as he fasted for 40 days and experienced temptation. But 40 also comes up in the Genesis account of Noah and the flood, which is a foreshadowing of Baptism. And also, in Exodus, when Moses spent 40 days with God atop Mount Sinai.

We read about Jesus' temptation in the desert in the accounts in Matthew 4:1-11, or Mark 1:12-13, or Luke 4:1-13. We talk about the desert but in a biblical context, it was the wilderness. A place of silent communing with God, apart from the bustle of human society. There amid the plants and animals that God had created and proclaimed good. Away from distraction.

But in another sense, new distractions arise in the wilderness. When a person is alone he has the opportunity to commune with nature and with nature's God. But also, one has to spend time with himself. The desert is where one's sins are laid bare. In these days of soul-searching and self-reflection, what demons do we have to contend with? But we have Jesus by our side, accompanying us. When we are too weak to rebuke Satan by our own strength, Jesus is with us. And in these days of struggle, and reflection, there can be the opportunity for healing, growth, reconciliation, and deepening of faith.

Lent also offers each of us an opportunity to deepen the meaning of our Christian lives. We can rediscover what the mercy of God is and become more merciful toward our neighbors and ourselves. During Lent the Church calls us to pray, fast and to give alms (acts of charity.)

Prayer.

Prayer spiritually nurtures us. Without prayer we are spiritually starving and thirsting. And without prayer our relationship with God is strained—like a human relationship without warmth or affection. So Lent is an opportunity to build our relationship with God through the bond of prayer. And this should include prayerful silence, the silence of the desert, where free of other noises and distractions we can hear the Lord speak to us.

Practically-speaking, maybe we can recommit to a habit of daily prayer, and making time each morning and evening for a one-on-one with God. Perhaps we can reach to traditional Catholic devotions during this Lent to aid us, including visiting the Blessed Sacrament, joining a virtual Bible study, or praying the Rosary or the Stations of the Cross.

Pope Francis recently reminded us, that during Lent, prayer is a means of responding God's love "which always preceded and sustains us."

Fasting.

Jesus fasted hard. Yet, the Church does not demand we fast in the intense manner of our Lord. For us, we are encouraged to fast in some small way each day of Lent—in addition to the mandated days of fasting or abstinence from meat. When we deprive ourselves of something that is good, but non-essential, we increase our reliance on God. We are reminded that God alone is our daily bread. God is the one essential we cannot do without.

The opportunity to say "no" to what we want and the temptations placed before us and to say "yes" to God, builds character. This is how we grow in Virtue and gain the upper hand over Vice. The Cross of Christ. Our fasting is just a little teeny bit of suffering compared to Jesus' agony, his embrace of the Cross, his Crucifixion—the atoning death which liberated us from our sins. This is also Jesus' solidarity with suffering humankind, and cannot our fasting be a kind of solidarity with those who suffer as well? Pope Francis recently wrote:

"Fasting weakens our tendency to violence; it disarms us and becomes an important opportunity for growth. On the one hand, it allows us to experience what the destitute and the starving have to endure. On the other hand, it expresses our own spiritual hunger and thirst for life in God. Fasting wakes us up. It makes us more attentive to God and our neighbor. It revives our desire to obey God, who alone is capable of satisfying our hunger."

Almsgiving.

Almsgiving is closely related to both prayer and fasting. Because through works of mercy, we imitate Christ. And we build up Virtue and defeat Vice by focusing on charity—love of our neighbor as ourselves.

We can offer money (our treasure), but it is also important to give our time and talent in service of others. This is the Christian way. To put aside a portion of our time, treasure and talent to serve those in greatest need.

Several years ago, Pope Benedict XVI wrote these words: “Jesus gave His entire self for us. Lent, also through the practice of almsgiving, inspires us to follow His example. In His school, we can learn to make of our lives a total gift; imitating Him, we are able to make ourselves available, not so much in giving a part of what we possess, but our very selves. Cannot the entire Gospel be summarized perhaps in the one commandment of love? The Lenten practice of almsgiving thus becomes a means to deepen our Christian vocation. In gratuitously offering himself, the Christian bears witness that it is love and not material richness that determines the laws of his existence. Love, then, gives almsgiving its value; it inspires various forms of giving, according to the possibilities and conditions of each person.”

Conclusion

What will you do differently this Lent? What opportunities has God placed in your life this year to grow in your prayer life, to practice Lenten fasting, to charitably give, not only out of your surplus but out of your very self? What will your 40-day adventure in the desert with Jesus look like this year?

GREETINGS FROM OUR NATIONAL SUPERVISOR



Greeting to all my sisters,

The cold weather is upon us. I hope everyone is staying safe and warm. Please remember to reach out to our sick and shut-in members. If nothing more than to say hello and to see how they are doing. That one call can make a world of difference.

We are now in the month of March and we are well into the Lenten Season. It is once again, time to reflect on our personal spiritual well-being by eliminating all that is unnecessary and how God is working in our lives.

It is with excitement that I get to join you for your Fifty Second Biennial State Convention. I look forward to seeing faces that I haven't seen since the last convention. Your convention will be a little different this year. However, I encourage you to join and support your State Board. They are eager to share National and State information with you.

All CDA National Projects and Charities are important. Hopefully, you have had a chance to review the newest one Catholic Extension. We ask that all members take a moment to read their Mission Statement and about those they serve. It is a papal society that is answering Pope Francis' call to go out to America's "peripheries". Catholic Extension has distributed more than 1.2 billion in today's dollars to diocese that cannot support themselves.

Your National Board is inviting all Catholic Daughters to join us for the 2021 CDA Fall Retreat. You will have three locations to choose from. Hickory, North Carolina, Mesilla Park, New Mexico and Benet, Wisconsin. Please check the CDA website for registration and more information. If you know of a CDA member who does not have a computer, please share this information. Registrations are being accepted.

Please adhere to the Virtual State Convention guidelines and dates set by your State Board. You and your courts participation are important.

Blessings to each of you, *Essie*



A MOMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY & REFLECTION

St. Patrick - A Reflection St. Patrick is known and admired all over the world as the young slave who became an unlikely hero, the shy boy transformed into a courageous missionary. Patrick came to an alien land that soon became his adopted home, and a foreign people became his friends. He was no brilliant scholar but a man of deep faith tried and tested in the fires of slavery and exile. At first a reluctant preacher until filled with the strength of the Trinity he overcame his fears and limitations to establish one of the strongest Churches in the Christian world.

Man of God

Patrick was a towering figure. He had a strong biblical faith centered on the Trinity. He was deeply familiar with the Word of God and pondered it day and night. He lived in intimate union with Christ who was always before, behind, above, within him. Every step he took was in the company of Jesus, every word he spoke was inspired by Jesus, and every breath was full of the spirit of Jesus.

Legacy

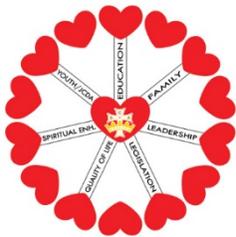
The legacy he left is most clear in the distinctive Gaelic spirituality that combined Celtic love of nature and monastic closeness to God. The pre-Christian Celts looked for signs of God in the beauty and power of nature. The earliest written Gaelic poem is the Song of Amergin which celebrates the presence of God in nature.



I am wind on sea
 I am wave in storm
 And seven horned stag.
 I am hawk of cliff
 A boar of valor
 I am a salmon in a pool.

Echoes of this early Celtic sensitivity to nature are found in Patrick's prayers.

I arise today
 Through the strength of heaven:
 Light of sun
 Radiance of moon
 Splendor of fire
 Speed of lightening
 Swiftmess of wind
 Depth of sea
 Stability of earth
 Firmness of rock.



CIRCLE OF LOVE

We continue to high-light our winners of the Circle of Love Contest for 2018-2020. This month we have our winner under the **FAMILY** spoke. Congratulations again to **Court Sacred Hearts #864** for their “Merrimack Valley Hope Project”.

As part of their court calendar the court had Joseph D’Amore the lead for the Merrimack Valley Hope Mission come to speak. He and his volunteers work with the homeless living in the Merrimack Valley Region. Participation was discussed at the meeting and members voted on support this project for those families in need.

Several CDA members and their husbands over a two day period shopped for foods for lunches, 75 healthy lunches were made. Other members wrote up prayer reflections to put in bags. Lunches were brought to G.A.R. Park in Haverhill and distributed. The homeless were greeted with warm smiles and greetings and it was very much appreciated by everyone.

A quote from Mother Teresa was mentioned; “Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing.” They are planning to continue this project.

What a wonderful project!!! Congratulations again Ct. Sacred Hearts!!!!

NATIONAL NEWS **UPDATES –**

Sending Documents to National Office -

When sending documents from court to National, please follow-up with email or phone call to be certain it has arrived. Phone call is best option.

Receiving Group Emails –

Group email are sent to get message out quickly with exact wording. If reply is expected please only use REPLY not the REPLY ALL. Reply all sends message to everyone and causes mailboxes to fill up unnecessarily.

Misericordia –

Is no longer on list of charities and projects. Any checks designated will be applied to another charity.

Updating the Store –

The store has been updated and easier to use. Do you have suggestions on items that could be added to inventory? This is our store and we want it to include items of interest to our members.

Financial Reviews –

The semi- annual Financial Reviews for the spring are due March 31. Some courts have still not completed their Fall Reviews, these must be done as soon as possible.

National Scholarship Application 2021 –

The CDA will award two \$1,000.00 scholarships to students entering 9th grade at a Catholic High School in the fall of 2021. Applications are due to Ivone da Silveira by April 1, 2021. Please go to www.catholicdaughters.org for more information.

“Massachusetts in Action”...



STATE NEWS

GAMBIT – Patricia Adams, Chairwoman

March brings another opportunity to be lucky at Gambit! 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. The May drawing will include extra prizes!!! Proceeds benefit our State Scholarship, Education Contest prizes and activities. Thank you for your support!!

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 my former address will be forwarded, but it will take longer to arrive.

Patricia Adams, 3 Winthrop Street, North Easton, MA 02356.

CARDINALS GIFT -

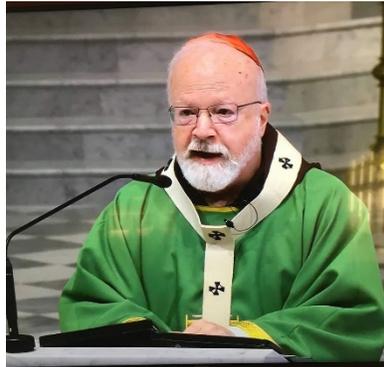
It is customary that we present the Cardinal Sean O'Malley with a gift collected at our State Convention. Please forward your donation made payable to "MA State Court" to Pat Adams, First Vice State Regent, 3 Winthrop Street, North Easton, MA 02356.

CORRECTION -

In the Call to **Convention** deadline for **Registration** was mentioned as Feb. 15 and also March 15. **The correct date is March 15** and sent to Co-Chair Judi Shooter, 2 Lester Rd, Danvers, MA 01923. Registration fee is \$65. Made payable to "MA State Court".

CULTURE OF LIFE MASS -

I was contacted by Marianne Luthin of the Pro-Life Office and was honored to be asked by the Cardinal to be part of the Culture of Life Mass which aired on Catholic TV from the Cathedral of the Holy Cross on January 24th. In attendance were Nancy Meehan, State Regent, Carol Ghiloni, State Secretary, Michael Lesperance and his wife Ann, State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus and Marianne Luthin of the Pro-Life Office.



CONTESTS -

Reminder that your EDUCATION, NEWSLETTER & WEBPAGE entries are due to the State Chairmen, postmarked by March 15th.

STATE CONVENTION -

We continue to work on our April 24-25 State Convention and it is our hopes to bring you a spiritual, educational, informative and fun time.

Remember your deadlines...all delegates forms, Resolutions and Bylaw submissions should be in to the appropriate persons by now. Also my seven circle of love chairmen and state officers should have their two year reports in to me also.

Registration is due to Judi Shooter by March 15.

The slate of officers will be announced soon and we will have nominations from the floor via email before the ballots are sent to delegates in March. It will be a quick turnaround so be on the lookout. Emails will be coming soon!!

LOCAL NEWS –

COURT OUR LADY OF LOURDES #2396 –

Ct. Our Lady collected Thermals for men and women and baby items and donated them to Father Bill's & Main Spring. **Father Bill's & MainSpring** is committed to ending and preventing homelessness in Southern Massachusetts with programs that provide emergency and permanent housing and help people obtain skills, jobs, housing, and services.



PRAYER CORNER

The month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. The entire month falls during the liturgical season of Lent. Besides the Solemnity of Joseph, husband of Mary, we also celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, the Feast of St. Patrick and Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion.



The Holy Father's intention for the month is "The Sacrament of Reconciliation;" Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God."

IPSR TRICIA MCSHANE WANTS TO THANK EVERYONE WHO SENT HER CARDS AND KEPT HER IN THEIR PRAYERS WHILE SHE WAS IN THE HOSPITAL....SHE IS HOME HEALING AND SENDS HER LOVE TO ALL!!!

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

"Serving the Lord through Our Faith, Actions & Love"

