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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.

APRIL 2021



REGENTS MESSAGE

My Dear Sisters,

April is a time of renewal – to make things new, to begin again!!

As spring emerges and days grow longer and warmer, the earth is made new again; flowers bloom, the trees burst forth and the birds join in with their songs.



We remember our baptismal promises on Easter Sunday and our commitment to our faith.

In Catholic Daughters this year we vote on our new State Leadership and we are reenergized as we recommit ourselves to the order for the new term at State Convention. Even though we meet virtually this year for convention we will still join together for a time of spirituality, education, and business, fun and of course sisterhood. The State Board has been working tirelessly with the convention chairwomen and are looking forward to seeing you on April 24 & 25.

We wish you and your families a Very Blessed Easter Season & Happy Spring!!!!

In Unity & Charity, your State Regent Nancy Meehan



A Word from our State Chaplain

This spring, As We Honor Mary, Let us Honor Her Most Chaste Spouse: Joseph.

By Fr. Peter DeFazio, State Chaplain

This Spring, as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us resolve to also honor her partner, able assistant, helper, and holy protector, her most chaste spouse, Saint Joseph.

Fatherhood sometimes gets a negative treatment in our contemporary culture. We hear every day about the bad fathers—these stories of rogue fathers, clearly a sad but extremely small percentage of men—sell books, make for intriguing crime dramas on streaming platforms, television and the movies. Stories of great dads, unsung heroes of everyday life, get almost no attention. Incompetent fathers make great comedy shows. Virtuous, stable, clearheaded and strong fathers who are like rudders keeping a ship on course, are seldom the stuff of popular fiction.

St. Joseph is a father *par excellence* that the scriptures and tradition of the Church set before us as a counter-cultural role model of manhood oriented toward God. What a great role-model St. Joseph is!

God, how our society and world need to rediscover the compassionate strength of St. Joseph, the Bible's *Quiet Man*. Joseph has no speaking parts in the Bible. No lines to remember if one is acting the part in a biblically-accurate play. Yet even without words, his character comes forth.

St. Joseph experienced his own annunciation regarding the birth of Jesus. He had been visited by an angel, like Mary, telling him about the miraculous incarnation of a child, who he was to name Jesus. He obeyed when God told him to take Mary, already pregnant with the Christ-child, into his own home as his wife. Joseph heeded his unique vocation to treat Jesus in every way as his very own son, including naming him.

This is the same St. Joseph that the Church has urged us to honor and get to know better through to December 8, 2021.

On May 13th, we will once again celebrate the anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima. But this year, as we honor Mary's miraculous signs and interventions, seeking to bring people to her Son, we also recall her spouse.

How appropriate that in the very last apparition at Fatima, on October 13, 1917, thousands of people witnessed the so-called miracle of the sun. But as the late visionary, Sister Lucia noted in her memoir, immediately following the publicly witnessed event, Lucia had a private revelation that very same day: She saw St. Joseph with the Child Jesus and Our Lady robed in white with a blue mantle, beside the sun. And St. Joseph and the Child Jesus appeared to bless the world, making the motions of the Sign of the Cross with their hands.

Monsignor John Cirrincione, who wrote a book titled *Saint Joseph, Fatima, and Fatherhood*, once explained: "The vision of St. Joseph and the Infant Jesus blessing the world, with Mary by the side of the sun which has not left its place, is God's assurance that though men may reject Him, God will never reject man."

The miracle of the sun is a reminder of the calamitous results of life without God, and the apparition of St. Joseph and the rest of the Holy Family is a sign of hope.

But St. Joseph was not always regarded as the patron saint of the Catholic Church. That occurred in 1870, when Pope Pius IX declared Joseph "Patron of the Universal Church." Pope Pius IX also made St Joseph's feast day on March 19th a Solemnity. In a document given on this day, *Quemadmodum Deus*, he states: "The Church has always most highly honored and praised blessed Joseph next to his spouse, the Virgin Mother of God, and has besought his intercession in times of trouble."



Just nine years later, in 1879, in Knock, Ireland, a vision was seen of St. Joseph with St. Mary and Jesus. Then in 1889, Pope Leo XIII wrote the first papal encyclical dedicated to St. Joseph: *Quamquam Pluries*. Exactly 100 years after Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, St John Paul II issued the apostolic exhortation *Redemptorist Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer). In it he mentions St Joseph's unique and privileged role as "the Guardian of the Mystery of God" and he addresses some central issues of our time: marriage, fatherhood, work and the interior life. The letter ends by asking St Joseph to "obtain for the Church and for the world, as well as for each of us, the blessing of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

St. Joseph is always seen by the Church in close association with Jesus and Mary. He is in a true husband to Mary and a true father to Jesus, though not in a biological manner. In no way, this has less to do with making statement about biology than it does making a point of the more transcendent importance of Fatherhood.

Fatherhood, like Motherhood, is firstly a spiritual vocation, in which one is entrusted with the nurturing and wellbeing of other human beings. To raise children is a Godly vocation. To be the protector and defender of one's wife and children is one of the most important roles on earth. Even for men and women without children, St. Joseph is a model of that love for neighbor that the Gospel of Jesus Christ demands of us.

Let us re-commit ourselves a life of love and service like that of St. Joseph. This Spring, let us re-consecrate ourselves to the silent man of the Bible. As the great mystic and doctor of the Church, St. Teresa of Avila once wrote: "I know by long experience what blessings he can obtain for us from God. I have never known anyone who was truly devoted to him by particular services who did not advance greatly in virtue: for he helps in a special way those souls who commend themselves to him."



GREETINGS FROM OUR NATIONAL SUPERVISOR



Greeting to all Catholic Daughters,

When we think about the month of April, the first holiday to come to mind is Easter. The next thing is the reborn of Christ and celebrating with family.

Easter comes with warmer weather, blooming flowers, looking for that favorite candy, coloring eggs, dressing up to attend Mass, and gathering with beloved friends and family for that special traditional meal. Regardless as to how you and your family celebrate; we must remember that Easter is truly about celebrating the resurrection of Christ, renewal of one's self, reflecting, peace, forgiveness hope, love and, joy.

As we focus on Easter Sunday, remember the other special days of observance in April:

- 1: Maundy Thursday
- 2: Good Friday
- 3: Holy Saturday
- 4: Easter Sunday
- 11: Divine Mercy Sunday



I am truly looking forward to celebrating your VIRTUAL 52ND Biennial State Convention. Your State Board and Co-Chairs, Linda Coletti and Judi Shooter have worked hard to make this an eventful convention.

Have you had the opportunity to visit the CDA Website regarding the Fall Retreats? If not, please do so. Our theme: Faithful Women Set the World on Fire. Registration is now opened.

“Easter is the only time when it’s perfectly safe to put all your eggs in one basket.” Evan Esar

Stay blessed and Happy Easter!

Essie

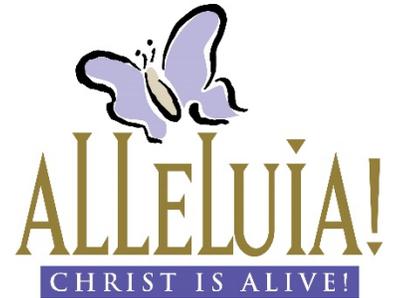


A MOMENT FOR SPIRITUALITY & REFLECTION **From Jean Rousseau Spiritual Enhancement Chair**

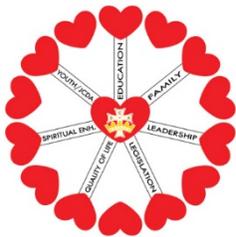
SING ALLELUIA, GLORIFYING GOD

It is not dutiful observance that keeps us from sin, but something far greater, it is love. This love is not something which we develop by our own powers alone. It is a sublime gift of the Divine Mercy, and the fact that we live in the realization of this mercy and this gift is the greatest source of growth for our love and for our holiness.

We celebrate the Feast of Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter. This gift, this mercy, this unbounded love of God for us has been lavished upon us as a result of Christ's victory. To taste this love is to share in His victory. To realize our freedom, to exalt in our liberation from death, from sin and from the Law, is to sing the Alleluia which glorifies God in this world and the world to come.



Wisdom from Thomas Merton



CIRCLE OF LOVE

This month we highlight the 2018 – 2020 Circle of Love winner in the **QUALITY OF LIFE** spoke of the wheel. Our winner again is **Court Henry A. Sullivan #584** of Danvers for their “**Best Buddies**” Project.

Best Buddies is the world’s largest organization dedicated to ending social, physical and economic isolation of the 200 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This program empowers the special abilities of people with IDD by helping them form meaningful friendships with their peers, secure successful jobs, live independently, improve public speaking, self-advocacy and communication skills, and feel valued by society.



Henry A. had a speaker from Best Buddies requesting donations for a fundraiser. Henry A. went a step further and held their own fundraiser at Applebee’s in Danvers. They advertised through email, church bulletin, local television, Facebook and the public school system. They had a raffle table as well. **Great Job Henry A. Sullivan for a job well done!!**

NATIONAL NEWS

FINANCIAL REVIEWS –

The semi-annual Financial Reviews for the spring should have been completed by March 31. Some have not completed their Fall Reviews, these must be done and submitted as soon as possible.



CDA FALL RETREATS

Faithful Women Set the World on Fire! Retreats will be offered in September in North Carolina, October in New Mexico and in Wisconsin in November. Stay tuned for more information.

“Massachusetts in Action”...

STATE NEWS

GAMBIT –



Patricia Adams

April showers bring May flowers... but we will also shower some lucky winners with prize money in our Gambit drawing, April 20th! Membership in Gambit is ongoing, so you can still get in on the fun!

The last drawing will be in May. Along with the regular prizes of 2@ \$10, 2@ \$15, 1@ \$25 and 1@ \$50, there will be 2 Bonus prizes of 1@ \$100 and 1@ \$150, totaling \$250 extra in May!!

Your Gambit donation supports our College Scholarship, Book Award, the Education Contest and other educational activities.

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.

STATE CONVENTION -

Our State Convention is fast approaching!!! Looking forward to seeing all of you who have registered on April 24 & 25 for our convention and installation of new State Officers.

A packet will be delivered to each of you who have registered with convention program and information for that weekend.

Our State Treasurer and IT Guru will be holding two practice ZOOM meetings – one on Thursday April 15 and Friday April 16th both at 7:00 PM. Information will be sent to those registered the week before, this info was sent on March 9th if you saved it.

We are very excited and look forward to seeing you there!!!

LOCAL NEWS –

COURT MARGARET #629 -

On April 17th Court Margaret will celebrate their **100th Anniversary!!!** To honor the occasion the court was sent a beautiful plaque from National with their congratulations. They will mark the occasion with a 4 pm Mass on that day celebrated by Bishop William Byrne followed by a small gathering/dinner. We wish them all our best on this very special occasion and for their dedication to the order for 100 years. **Congratulations!!!**



COURT MAPLEWOOD #510 –

On April 11th Court Maplewood will also celebrate their **100th Anniversary** (really their 102) delayed due to pandemic. They will celebrate with a 9 am Mass followed by a reception/luncheon. We would like to also extend our congratulations to Maplewood for their dedication to the order. **All our best!!!**

CAMPUS BEAT



Patricia Adams



Things are looking up for our campus court! After a difficult period of strictly limiting student extra-curricular activities, Court Stonehill College #2623 in Easton reports that they have met and have recruited three new members! Regent Kelly LaRegina and her officers and members take part in campus ministry spiritual activities and are considering possible opportunities to support and serve the needs of others. Please pray for our campus Catholic Daughter sisters!



PRAYER CORNER

The month of April is dedicated to The Holy Spirit. The first three days fall during Lent and the remainder of the month falls during the Season of Easter. April is a time of new life and the most solemn event in human history, the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Father's intention for the month is Fundamental Rights. "We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis".

Wishing you all A Very Blessed Easter Season!!!



In Unity & Charity

Nancy, Pat, Pauline, Carol, Alicia & Father Peter

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



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