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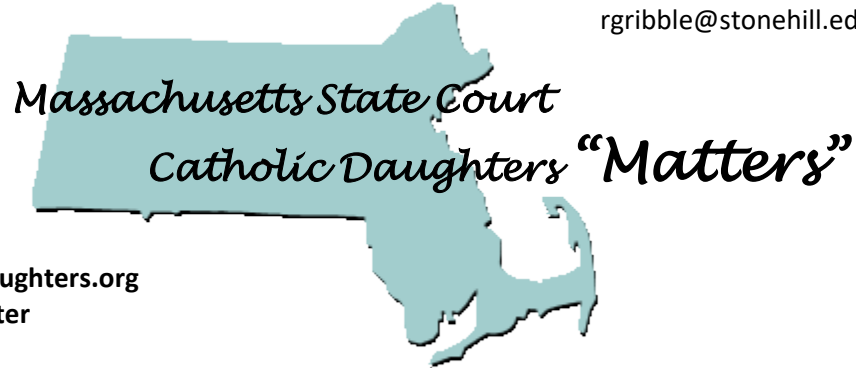
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**Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love  
In the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.**

**December 2021**

**REGENT'S MESSAGE** – Patricia Adams



It's the Christmas Season!! That's the message that surrounds us now that Thanksgiving is past (even a bit before). The secular aspect is evident in the many holiday themed commercials on tv, popular Christmas songs, decorations, and Santa parades. We look forward to and prepare for Christmas in many ways – decorating our homes with lights, Christmas trees, buying presents, sending greeting cards, etc. We are sharing in the joy of the season!

For those of us focused on the religious significance, it's the Advent season right now!! We are waiting for Jesus, the Light of the world! We look forward to and prepare for the coming of our Savior. Our many beautiful Catholic traditions allow us to be mindful of and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas: Advent Wreaths and calendars, Jesse Trees, Christmas trees, traditional carols, Nativity scenes and plays, visits to shrines, and many personal, culinary, and cultural favorites. These provide a sense of shared spiritual meaning.

As Catholic Daughters, we continue to bring the light of Christ to others during the Advent season. Members and courts contribute “time, talents and treasures” to help provide for the needs of others and Christmas blessings. Thank you for spreading hope, love, joy, and peace through your kindness.

Our CDA Patroness, Our Blessed Mother Mary is especially celebrated this month. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death...

I wish you and your families a Blessed Advent and Christmas!

Your State Regent, Pat ❤️

**A WORD FROM OUR CHAPLAIN** – Father Rick Gribble, CSC



Dear Catholic Daughters,

The Advent season we now celebrate is a time of new beginnings and expectations. We have started a new liturgical year, prompting us to ask what we can do new and/or differently in 2022 to enhance our relationship with Jesus Christ. At the same time, we wait in patient expectation for Christ’s arrival on Christmas day.

In our society we celebrate the birthdays of family members and friends by presenting the individual with a gift, something that we believe the person could use or want. As Christians and Catholic Daughters we can make a major step forward by combining our desire to boost our relationship with the Lord and celebrate his birthday by being a better person. The popular Catholic writer and speaker, Matthew Kelly speaks of “being the best version of yourself.” While there are many things we might want to give Christ this year for his birthday, I am certain that the one and only thing he desires from any of us is a better version of ourselves. As we celebrate Advent and the forthcoming Christmas season, let us, therefore, seek to be better Christians and Catholic Daughters. The Lord will indeed be grateful for our efforts.

Father Rick Gribble, CSC

**GREETINGS FROM OUR NATIONAL SUPERVISOR** – Essie Walker



Greetings to All,

Can you believe that we are almost in the Christmas Holiday season? It is a very special time to celebrate with family and friends. Regardless as to how you and your family celebrate this year; make every effort to check in with family and friends to share with each other exactly what you are grateful for. Please remember our sick and shut-in members as we approach the holiday season.

But let's not forget the real reason for the celebration. It is also time for families and friends to come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to give thanks for all blessings received during the year. During these special times, share the gift of love, peace, and happiness. There is no greater gift than to spend time with family and friends around the Christmas tree and talk about the journey of Mary and Joseph.

Mother Teresa's quote about Christmas. "It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand..." May His coming this Christmas bring to each of us that peace and joy that He desires to give.

If you have not done so, please check out the CDA website. Tom Panas is keeping us current on happenings from National and our State and Local Courts. If your court has not shared your activities in the SHARE Magazine, now is the perfect time to do so. Let others know the great things members are doing in your court.

The September 2021, National Quarterly is posted online at catholicdaughters.org for your viewing. This quarterly is filled with information, forms, rules, deadline entry dates, and so much more for the 2022 contests and scholarships.

Please save the date for our upcoming National Convention. We look forward to seeing you; July 20-24, 2022, at the Sheraton Puerto Hotel and Casino, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

May the love of peace and joy be with you and your families as you celebrate the upcoming holidays.

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year

Essie

**A PAUSE FOR PRAYER** - Bridget Whyte, Court Queen of Peace #2724  
Spiritual Enhancement Chairwoman



This week I was inspired to reflect on the pilgrimage I made to the Holy Land during Lent of 2019.

That Lent I reflected more on the death of Jesus., but now, in Advent, I am drawn to His birth. In the Holy Land, we visited the home of Mary in Nazareth, where the Angel Gabriel announced the coming of Jesus. We celebrated Mass in the Shepherds Fields, overlooking the hills through which Mary and Joseph passed on their way to Bethlehem. And we visited Bethlehem itself, kissing the very spot upon which Jesus was born.

I was blessed to make that pilgrimage, but not everyone can go to Palestine. Instead, this Advent, let us make little pilgrimages at home, making time for deliberate acts of prayer, reflection, and compassion. Let us follow His footsteps within our own lives.

God loved us, and continues to love us, so much so that He sent us His Son born as a tiny little baby: vulnerable, weak, and entirely dependent on those around him.

God sent an infant, to be raised by the very people whom He would save. As a growing child, Jesus needed us as much as we need Him.

Let us remember that vulnerability this Advent, during times we need to rely on the generosity of those around us, and when we are called to generosity ourselves.

Many of our neighbors and loved ones are also vulnerable, weak, and entirely dependent on others.

Let us help them.

Let us make deliberate acts of generosity, filled with God's love, compassion, and mercy. Let us treat all souls in need as if they were the baby Jesus.

We need not bring gold, frankincense, or Myrrh. Perhaps the gifts we can offer the Baby Jesus can come in the form of compassion for those in pain, food for the hungry, clothing for the cold, and prayer for the lost.

This Advent, may we have the faith to approach Jesus just as the shepherds found him: in the unlikeliest of places and amongst the most vulnerable.

Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!

"Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will." Luke 2:14

**FOCUS ON YOUTH** – Marcia Hoyle Walkama, Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2396  
Youth/JCDA Chairwoman

Youth and Family Parish Activities



Bambinelli Sunday is another good opportunity for your court to be a visible presence in your parish by introducing this beautiful tradition. The Blessing of Babinelli is a beloved annual tradition at the Basilica in preparation for Christmas. It was first instituted by St. John Paul II. On the Third Sunday of Advent, the children of Rome are encouraged to bring the baby Jesus (Bambinelli) from each of their Nativity sets to St. Peter's Square.

Connect with the youth in your parish by distributing a miniature Jesus figurine to each child coming into Mass. Give them the supplies to make a simple manger for their figurine. Donate the book [Bambinelli Sunday: A Christmas Blessing](#), by Amy Welborn, to your Religious Ed or Faith Formation program. Have a member make a YouTube reading of the book and make it available through your parish's social media access.

Invite all families in your parish to bring their Jesus figurine from their Nativity Set to have it blessed at Mass that day. Does your parish have a Facebook page invite all parishioners to send in picture of their Nativity Sets and the history of it and share it on your Facebook page.

## NATIONAL NEWS



National Website: [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)

Be sure to visit the National website for news, **current updated forms**, and everything you need to know about CDA!

**Share** - You should have recently received the delayed 2021 Summer edition of **Share** magazine. Among the many interesting articles is an overview of the July 2021 State and Territorial Officers Training Workshop, held in AZ. Our own Massachusetts **State Secretary, Jenn Pacheco** is featured in part of the article! There are many other interesting and informative articles. It's always interesting to read about anniversaries, activities, and outreach by our sister courts. Members of **Court Margaret #629 , North Adams, MA** are pictured at their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass. You will find out how to submit your court's news at the bottom of page 3!

**FYI, Worth Repeating!!** From National Regent Sherry Nilles: Bylaws and Resolutions are an important part of the National Convention. Updating bylaws is one important part for delegates at the National Convention. *Now is the time to study our bylaws and suggest changes that are necessary and make amendments to the bylaws.* Please send changes to our National Bylaws Chairman, Carolyn Malik, PO Box 243, Shiner, Texas, 77984, postmarked by January 15, 2022. Amendments to the Bylaws must be approved by a state board, a state court, a local court, or a campus court and signed by the State Regent and State Secretary, by the Local Court Regent and the Court Recording Secretary, or by the Campus Court Regent and the Court Recording Secretary. A copy of the amendment and rationale proposed by a local court or campus court must be sent to the State Regent for her records. Five copies of each proposal and rationale (one per page) must be sent to the National Bylaws Chairman.



### "MASSACHUSETTS in ACTION" ...



**WEBSITE** – PSR Judi Shooter, Court Henry A Sullivan #584, Webmaster

Judi is looking forward to receiving **pictures and news about court happenings and upcoming events** for the website and the Face Book page. Let's keep it current.... Some courts have a link to their newsletters on this page, but the posted newsletters are no longer current. **Please update your information monthly directly with Judi:** [jhobbs1@aol.com](mailto:jhobbs1@aol.com). Invite friends to view the site and to join the Face Book page. This is how we can share the CDA message and interest potential new members! Thanks to Judi for serving in this role!



## **GAMBIT, GAMBIT, GAMBIT**



IPSR Nancy Meehan, Court St. Bernadette #2410, Gambit Chairwoman

**By now we have drawn the November winners, which will be announced soon!! Have not entered Gambit yet?? No Problem!! We have six (6) more drawings December through May. The proceeds fund our State Scholarship, Book Award, Education Contests, and other Educational Activities. Each month there is a chance to win 2-\$10, 2-\$15, 1-\$25 and 1-\$50. Cash prizes with two additional prizes of \$100 and \$150 in May. The earlier you enter the more chances you have to win!!! Winners are re-entered for all drawings!!! Please submit your \$20 per entry to your court chair for Gambit and they will submit all entries to me. Next drawing will be December 15 and subsequent months on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Good Luck!!! A Blessed Christmas to you and your families.**

### **STATE COURT CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Joy

Peace



Love

Hope

Let's get together!!

The party will be held on Saturday, December 11, 2021, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish Center, 145 Holliston Street, Medway, MA 02053. Join us for a delicious buffet luncheon catered by Oliva's of Milford, Basket raffle, Group Photo, Christmas Karaoke and CDA sisterhood! The cost is \$30.00. Please send checks payable to "MA State Court" with your name and contact information to Nancy Meehan, IPSR, 5 Elder Street, Framingham, MA 01702. **Deadline is December 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please send Nancy a message or email if your reservation is in the mail so that she knows by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **2022 EDUCATION CONTEST**

IPSR Nancy Meehan, State Education Chairwoman, reminds us that the information and forms are available on the National Website and are attached to this newsletter for your convenience. It is very important that entrants read and follow all the directions.

### **2022 MA STATE COURT COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP**

Nancy Ryan, Court St. Clementine #821 is Scholarship Chairwoman. Information and forms are available on the State Court website – [www.masscatholicdaughters.org](http://www.masscatholicdaughters.org) – please contact Nancy if you have any questions. Regents, please remind your members of this opportunity and perhaps have a copy of the information at your meeting.

## **JINGLE BELL CALENDAR RAFFLE**

Our Jingle Bell Calendar Raffle has been a popular and successful activity. To prepare for the January 2022 calendar, we are asking each court to donate at least 2 gift cards, scratch cards, and/or cash of \$10 or more value to help fill the calendar. Donations should be mailed to our Fund Raiser Chairwoman Pauline Butler, 9 Laurine Road, Danvers, MA 01923. Thank you to those who have already sent donations. Pauline will create the calendar as soon as she has enough prizes. Calendars, including an entry form, eligible for each daily drawing, will be sent out via email. They make great Christmas gifts for friends and family!

## **LOCAL COURT NEWS**

**From Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2396, Brockton:** Barbara Fox, Community Outreach Director for Schools On Wheels in Massachusetts (SOWMA) was a guest speaker at the October meeting. The organization provides age appropriate, fully stocked backpacks and school supplies to students who live in homeless shelters. In addition, trained volunteers provide personal tutoring for K to 12 students and mentoring to high school and college students to help them prepare for future schooling and employment. SOWMA is a charity supported by the court.

**From Court St. Joseph #1475, Medway:** Meetings begin with Mass at 6:00 PM. The November Mass intention was "Deceased Members Remembrance." Following Mass, guest speaker Teddy Sayonkon talked about his ministry Lifting Up Liberian Youth (LULY), through which he shares the Gospel and provides humanitarian aid to needy school children in Liberia. The court also made and donated Thanksgiving baskets to support the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

**From Court Our Lady of the Presentation #1543:** Court members are making Baptismal robes for the babies at St. Columbkille Parish as well as baby afghans for Pregnancy Help. Their chaplain, Fr. Chris Bae, who is from Korea, gave an interesting talk about how his vocation to the priesthood developed. Regent Patricia McShane reminded members to continue praying for more vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

**From Court Maplewood #510, Malden:** The members gathered to meet and to set up for the annual Penny Sale on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Plans included gift table, Raffle tables and Scratch tickets.





### **PRAYER CORNER**

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us  
(Feast Day – December 12<sup>th</sup>)

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose, make intercession for the Holy Church, protect the Sovereign Pontiff, help all those who invoke thee in their necessities, and since thou art the ever-Virgin Mary, and Mother of the True God, obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith, of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life, of burning charity, and the precious gift of final perseverance. Amen.

### **Our Holy Father Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for the month of December: Catechists**

**Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**Please remember in your prayers:** Christine Goudreau and Mary Slamin, dear members of Court St. Bernadette #2410 who recently passed away; our CDA sisters who are ill and/or homebound; Kimberly Kearney, daughter of Anne Huben-Kearney of Court Queen of Peace #2724, who is undergoing cancer treatment; all the departed souls in Purgatory; that the spirituality, Circle of Love service and sisterhood of CDA will inspire more Catholic women to join our organization; the intentions in the hearts of all members of the Massachusetts State Court.

Please send your prayer intentions for upcoming newsletters to: [patsyann621@gmail.com](mailto:patsyann621@gmail.com)



**In Unity & Charity**

**Pat, Carol, Jenn, Alicia & Father Rick**

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



**Please note...**

**\*Regents... Please forward this newsletter to all your membership, have a copy available at your meeting, and, if possible, send/deliver to those without email who are unable to attend meetings. Also, please forward me a copy of your newsletters and any news/photos to share for our State newsletter.**

**\* Many of us have email addresses that are creative, but do not identify the sender. Please remember to include your name in the body of the messages when sending emails to members of the State Board, District Deputies, Chairwomen, etc. Thank you!**