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WINTER
2014-2015



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

The National Team
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National Regent's Message

Dear Sisters in Catholic Daughters,

It is a great honor for me to introduce myself as National Regent. I truly appreciate all the support given to me over the last twelve years as I served on the National Board and now as National Regent. It has been a tremendous journey, and all the wonderful sisters and brothers (priests, husbands, etc.) I have gained through Catholic Daughters have really made me part of one phenomenal, spiritual, dynamic family. It is hard to believe how many places I can visit and have a friend there through Catholic Daughters.

We had our first board meeting in early September. It was a wonderful week of praying and working together, as well as getting to know each other during the meetings and free time. We have an outstanding board, and we look forward to working together to serve all of you to the best of our ability. Thank you for all of the cards, well wishes, and especially the prayers for the board since we were installed in Billings.

Our new National Chaplain is Father Matthew Kuhn from Perham, Minnesota. Father is a graduate of the Pontifical North American College in Rome, one of our National Charities. He is a wonderful priest and a tremendous blessing to all of us. Please take the time to read his articles in *Share* and in the Quarterly (which is posted on the website at www.catholicdaughters.org). These articles and the reflections on the Sunday readings, which he now writes and which are posted each week on the website, are very inspirational.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to Father Ed Lamp for writing his very inspiring reflections on the Sunday readings the past four years. We also want to sincerely thank Peggy Eastman for serving as Editor of *Share* for many years. We have all very much appreciated her editorials and her book reviews in addition to all her work as editor. She has agreed to continue to share her book reviews for which we are grateful.

Since being installed, I presented a \$10,000 check from you to SOAR! at their National fundraising dinner and represented you at the National Council of Catholic Women's convention, where we shared with each other our common mission of spreading God's word through works of charity. I also attended the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Labouré Society, one of our National charities, and the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. As National Regent, I served as an observer at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops meetings where one of the messages was that as Catholics we need to "help the poor and marginalized break the cycle of poverty," a message that fits perfectly with our theme of helping the least of My brethren. I spoke with several U. S. Bishops who have high regards for the Catholic Daughters and the work we are doing in their dioceses. During January, we look forward to attending the Right to Life Mass and the March for Life in Washington, DC, to show our support for the Right to Life movement, and we pray that someday all life will be respected and allowed to live from conception to natural death.

Catholic Daughters is a great organization of loving, spirit-filled, charitable women who are called to action by our theme, "Whatever you do for the least of My brethren, you do for Me." Matthew 25:40. We are servant people who exhibit a positive attitude in life and in CDA. If we have a positive attitude and speak to others about the spiritual aspect as well as the fun and enjoyment we have when we attend a CDA meeting, we will encourage others to join our organization. Happy, positive people attract others. We can demonstrate the value of Catholic Daughters by our actions, and, therefore, do much to recruit women to CDA. We must ask ourselves, when people meet us and we talk about CDA,

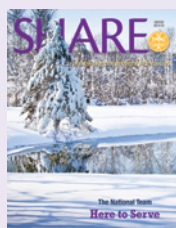


National Regent
Shirley Seyfried

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Mission Statement

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.



About the Cover

The beauty of God's winter creation.

SHARE



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Winter 2014-2015
Volume 45 • Number 1

National Officers

National Regent

Shirley Seyfried
Minnesota

National Regent-Elect

Helene Shepard
New York

First Vice National Regent

Olga Samaniego
Texas

Second Vice National Regent

Sherry Nilles
Iowa

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Vickie Feist
South Dakota

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Texas

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Arizona

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Ohio

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Massachusetts

Janet Martineau
Montana

Sheila Storey
North Carolina

National Chaplain

Rev. Matthew Kuhn
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Submission of materials for publication in *Share*: All articles, stories, and items must be *cleanly typed, double spaced on 8 1/2 x 11* sheets. Include your name and address and phone number. Photos must be clear with complete identification typed and attached and are unable to be returned. Deadlines for final mailing of materials for publication are: Spring Issue—January 15; Summer Issue—April 20; Fall Issue—July 30; Winter Issue—September 30. Send all materials to The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, 10 West 71st Street, New York, NY 10023-4201. Due to limited space all material appearing in *Share* is evaluated for interest to readers, theme in keeping with the purpose of *Share*, educational, informational, and religious value to readers and date received. The publishers are not responsible for factual errors from information submitted by authors and readers.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has 75,000 members in 1,328 courts in the United States, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

National Chaplain's Message

My dear Sisters in Christ,

I must confess to being a big softie. One of my favorite moments at Mass is our children's collection. The little ones are so eager to bring their gifts forward and to present them to Father. They run with abandon toward God's altar. They may not know the value of the money in their little hands, but they know that these gifts have been entrusted to them to be given to God. How I wish we could hold on to their excitement as we grow older!

In the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), we see Jesus express his desire that we would use well the tremendous gifts God has entrusted to us. Our Lord has given us so much more than we can or should use for ourselves. Our great gifts, by their very nature, are meant to be put to great use. And let us not forget the fate of the servant who buried his talent out of fear. So why would we dare to guard our gifts too jealously or bury them for some better day that may never come?

Let the little children be our models. We give them a dollar, and they treasure it because it came from us. We point them to the altar and gently push them on their way. They gather steam and run headlong forward until God's awe-inspiring presence (represented by a tall, brilliantly-vested priest) slows them to a stop. Their little hands open to reveal their treasures, and they casually drop them in the basket as they smile up at the Father. Then the spell is broken when another boy bumps them aside for his turn at the basket, and both race back to the arms and smiles of proud parents.

This is how we too should give. We know the value of our dollars and our hours, but their true value in the eyes of the Lord remains unknown to us until we put them to His good use. Our parents and the saints who have gone before us have pointed the way and taught us well how to invest ourselves and our treasures in the future of our parishes and our society. What remains now for us is to open our hands and let go! Perhaps we need to spend more time gazing up at the face of Christ on the Cross. He shows us so well how to give all to the Father.

But can we surrender all, as Jesus did, into God's hands? Of course! Can we trust Him with our treasures? Who else would we trust? Can we offer God even the lives of our children as He calls them to priesthood, religious life, or holy married or single life in some other part of the world where He needs them most?

Every blessing we have received has been entrusted to us for the up-building of God's church. May we be good and faithful servants who joyfully invest our whole selves and our treasures into God's care for use in His great plan for us all.

Peace in Christ,

Father Matthew Kuhn



Father Matthew Kuhn

National Regent's Message

Continued from page 1

are they attracted to join us? If not, why not?

Thank you for all you do in CDA and for your recruitment efforts. The more members we have, the more we can do to fulfill our theme these two years, "Whatever you do for the least of My brethren, you do for Me." Matthew 25:40 May God continue to Bless you and your work in CDA and may you find peace and joy in this New Year.

Peace and God Bless,

Shirley Seyfried
National Regent

"The most stunning portrayal of the Virgin Mary on film. A masterpiece!"
— Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

"A very anointed work, a powerful medium of grace."
— Michael O'Brien, Author,
Father Elijah

"Mary of Nazareth captivated me from the first scene to the last."
— Johnnette Benkovic,
Women of Grace



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The film vividly captures the essence of Mary's profound faith and trust in God amidst the great mysteries that she lived with as the Mother of the Messiah, showing her compassionate humanity and concern for others, and the deep love that she and Jesus shared for one another. The movie underscores her special role in God's plan for our redemption, her unique relationship with Christ, and the great suffering she endured in union with his passion and death, and her serene joy at his resurrection.

It was directed by renown European film director Giacomo Campiotti (Bakhita, Doctor Zhivago, St. Giuseppe Moscati). The original music score by Guy Farley is majestic. *Two-Disc Collector's Edition* includes many Special Features.

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- + AND MUCH MORE

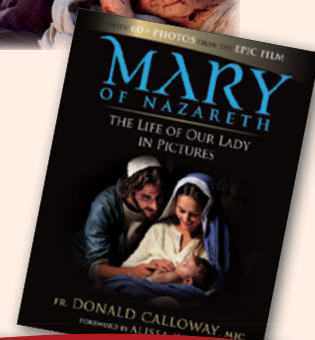


MARY OF NAZARETH *The Life of Our Lady in Pictures*

This glorious, large-size volume has over 60 captivating photos from the movie, with meditations written by **Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC**, that will bring deep inspiration and insight to all readers about the mysterious life of love, faith and sacrifice of the woman God chose to be the Mother of our Savior, Mary of Nazareth.

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The National Team— We Are Here To Serve

In this issue of Share, we'd like to share a little about each member of the National Team who are here to serve you. We hope you will contact us with any questions or problems you may have, or if there is any way we can help you with a project or starting a new court. Our National Team Members are

National Regent, **Shirley Seyfried**. I grew up on a farm in North-Central, Illinois, where my ninety-eight year-old mother still resides. I have two sisters and two brothers, all of whom still live in Illinois. I graduated from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb with a Bachelor's degree in Nursing and the University of Washington in



Seattle with a Master's degree in Medical-Surgical Nursing. I taught nursing for seven and a half years at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. I met my husband, Dave at St. Thomas More Church in Iowa City, and we were married in 1969. Our

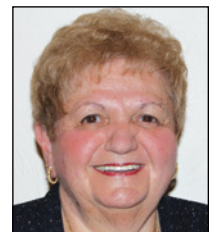
four children and ten (almost eleven) grandchildren include: son, David, wife Candi, and their children, Benjamin, 16, Sarah, 14, David, 12, and Kate, 9, daughter, Julie, husband, Adam, and their children, Andrew, 16, Anthony, 13, Christopher 10, Joseph, 8, and Joshua, 6, son, Daniel, and daughter, Christina, husband, Gerardo, and their son, Thaddaeus, 18 months, and a baby daughter due in February.

We moved to Fergus Falls, MN in 1977 when Dave completed his doctorate and lived there for twenty-five years. I worked as a nurse at the hospital and then taught nursing and directed the RN program at Fergus Falls Community College for a total of twenty-three years. We moved to Battle Lake, MN in 2002. I have belonged to Court St. Cabrini, #1466 in Fergus Falls, MN for thirty-six years and served as Vice Regent and Regent of the court for six years, then served as Treasurer, Second Vice, First Vice, and State Regent of MN each for four years. I have been on the National board since 2002 when I became a National

Director. I served as National Director for four years and as Secretary-Treasurer, Second Vice, First Vice, and Regent Elect, each for two years and now am happy and honored to serve as National Regent. Every year in Catholic Daughters has been wonderful. The sisters in Catholic Daughters that I have met are very faith-filled, phenomenal women whom I am so happy to call friends. May God Bless you all.

National Regent-Elect, **Helene Shepard**. My name is Helene Shepard, and I am honored to say that I have been elected to the office of National Regent-Elect. I thank all of my CDA sisters for your continued sign of support. I will work hard to live up to the responsibility with which you have entrusted me.

I am a long standing, generational member of Court Margaret Mary #768 in Monroe, New York. My late mother Helen, my sister Joan, my niece Robin and hopefully someday my grandnieces Madison and Gianna, will share the CDA legacy. I grew up in Brooklyn, New York, where I was taught by the Religious Sisters for twelve years. I studied at Fordham University and received my BA and Masters degrees there. I then worked in Education for forty years. I served in Pallottine Community schools and in the public school system of New York State both as teacher and administrator. Upon retiring, I became the founder and first director of Little Lambs Preschool, a position I held for many years. In addition, I was blessed with thirty-five happy years of married life with John, who served as a Deacon in the Archdiocese of NY until God called him in 2007. We were fortunate to have two adopted sons, Patrick, a happy memory, and Allen.



During the years on the National Board, I have enjoyed working on many different levels and committees giving me new experiences each time. My most recent responsibilities have been National Leadership chairman and Chair of the 1903 Society. I truly believe that my mission in life has been to echo the mantra of Deacon John Shepard who said, “I come to serve.” I look forward to serving you while I am on this CDA journey.

First Vice National Regent, **Olga Samaniego**. I grew up in a Catholic Daughter family. My life as a teenager revolved around the activities of the Ysleta Indians (my high school) and the ice cream socials, patio suppers, Corporate Communion, and service projects of Court Our Blessed Mother #1731. I turned eighteen right after the yearly reception of new members, so I had to wait until I was 19 when another reception was scheduled to actually join - that was after going through the process of being voted on and accepted—no black balls!!! Whew! As



I look back on my forty-five years as a member, I realize that life in CDA has changed a bit. The first office that I held in my court, that of Monitor, no longer exists, but one thing has not changed—the joy of sisterhood. My sisters in Christ were much older than

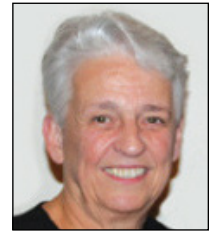
I in the beginning, and now, especially when I work with campus courts, they are much younger, but we still work, pray, laugh, and cry together. We rejoice, and we mourn together. We are on the same journey—the journey toward God, and I am grateful every day for my mother and the others who started me on my journey and for those who still walk the journey with me.

Because he married me, my husband Sam has been an honorary member of CDA for forty-four years. Our daughter, Roxie, and her husband Tony now live in Tucson with their daughters, Sophie and Evie. They are not Catholic Daughters, yet, but they understand the importance of living lives of service. They offer their gifts to their school, their parish, and their community. When I retired from teaching English for EPISD after thirty-five years, I never imagined that after following in Mother’s footsteps as State Regent I would go on to serve on the national board and still be able to present occasional retreats! God is good!

Second Vice National Regent, **Sherry Nilles**. Hello from this Iowa farm wife!

Introductions must begin with those closest to me.

Leon and I have been married since 1967. We are blessed with six children who have given us six in-laws and the most joyous (and sometimes noisy!) blessing of nineteen grandchildren. Lee and I were fortunate to raise our family in rural America on a family farm.



Teaching was part of my life as a mother and as a classroom teacher. My favorite job was as Development Director at Spalding Catholic Schools in Granville, Hospers, and Alton, Iowa. Making a difference in the lives of students and their families was very rewarding.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas was always a part of my life. My paternal grandmother, my mother and mother-in-law were all members of this wonderful organization and passed their love and dedication to Catholic Daughters to me. I look forward to working together to make the Catholic Daughters the very best organization by continuing to develop spirituality, leadership, unity and charity for all women.

National Secretary-Treasurer, **Vickie Feist**. I feel so blessed to be able to serve my Catholic Daughter sisters as your National Secretary-Treasurer. From the time I attended my first CDA meeting at Court St. Ann #1121 in Pierre South Dakota, I was hooked. I was a bit nervous as I walked into the room where I only knew the regent and vice regent. But, once the ladies pulled out their rosaries and began praying it together with such love and devotion, I knew I had found a sisterhood where I would have friends to support me and help me grow in my faith and spirituality. The organization has not let me down! While things have not always been blissful in the years I have belonged to Catholic Daughters, I have never seen a local or state court fail to heal and turn itself around when it refocused on prayer and spirituality. I am grateful that we aren’t some corporate machine - we are loving, Catholic women who can do wonderful things if we ground our action in prayer and the love of God. THAT is why I LOVE CDA!!



I was born, raised, married, and had our two beautiful children in North Dakota. However, it wasn’t until we moved to South Dakota that I was introduced to Catholic Daughters. I have an incredible husband Lynn who loves and supports me in my CDA work, as he has done in our thirty-one years of marriage. Our son Alexander, his wife Amanda, and our adorable one year- old grandson Liam

live in Pierre. Our daughter Bethanna lives in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Alex and Beth are the most incredible, faith filled, loving, talented children one could ever ask for - and I don't just say that because I am their mom.

My work history includes working as a Social Worker, Sexual Offender Therapist, and Chemical Dependency Counselor in a prison and also in a community mental health program. My last position was as a Policy Analyst for the State of South Dakota. I most enjoy spending time with family, singing, watching movies with my hubby, and sharing time with my friends - many who are Catholic Daughters.

National Chaplain, **Father Matthew Kuhn**. My name is Father Matthew Kuhn and I am the son of Greg and Mary Kuhn of Saint Cloud, Minnesota. My brother, Father Aaron Kuhn, also serves the Diocese of Saint Cloud. My sister and brother-in-law, DeAnna and Michael Parks, are active in youth ministry in Savannah, Georgia.

I received a Bachelor of Music degree in vocal music education from Saint Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota before entering formation for the priesthood. I studied philosophy at the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I then attended the Pontifical

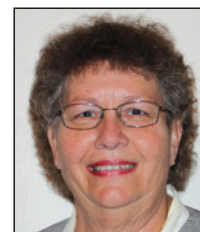


North American College in Rome, where I received my S.T.B. (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in the City (the Angelicum) and specialized in Spiritual Theology.

I was ordained to the priesthood of Jesus Christ in 2010 for the Diocese of Saint Cloud. I served the Church of Saint Michael in Saint Cloud and the Church of Saint Joseph in Waite Park as parochial vicar for two years, and am currently in my third year of serving as pastor of the Church of Saint Henry in Perham and the Church of the Holy Cross in Butler, Minnesota. In my free time, I enjoy cooking, making music, and discussing pop culture and movies with friends.

National Director, **Carolyn Bachmann**. My name is Carolyn Bachmann, and I was born and raised in Wichita Falls, Texas. I graduated from parochial school and earned a BS degree from Midwestern State University in Biology/Chemistry. I married my husband Chris in 1971, and we have two children, Suzanne Bachmann-Hansen and LTC. Christopher H. Bachmann III. My husband and I bought land in Scotland, TX, a small farming community nineteen miles south of Wichita Falls and physically built half of

our two-story home that we have lived in for twenty-nine years. We were in business for twenty-nine years before retiring in 2008. My husband and I still raise a few cattle more as a hobby than a job. My daughter blessed us with three granddaughters ages seventeen and two fourteen-year olds. My son blessed us with a granddaughter eleven and a grandson nine. My love of living in the country has been a reality for the majority of my life. I enjoy collecting old money, stamp collecting, sports and outdoor activities.



I have been a member of Court Our Lady of Good Counsel #309 for thirty-six years. I served as an officer of my court for seventeen years. I served as a district deputy for four years, a state chairman for eight years, and served on the Texas state board for eleven years. As a state officer, I served as a chairman for leadership, membership, memorial scholarship/mass cards, and court development. While serving with court development I was responsible for bringing in seventeen new courts and another ten courts as state regent. I have written several workshop presentations for leadership, membership, and outreach. Catholic Daughters has given me the opportunity to develop and use my talents and skills, and I have been able to offer them to my CDA sisters. Catholic Daughters has given me a sisterhood of women from across the nation with whom I can work in "Unity and Charity," and I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve.

National Director, **Letty M. Calvetti**. Hello, I am Letty M. Calvetti, and I joined the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in 1966 in Indiana, PA, and have been active since having joined. Four months after joining, I was elected to fill the Recording Secretary position. The next spring I was elected Regent of the court and have been active since that time. I have also served the local court in the offices of treasurer and vice regent. I was appointed as a District Deputy and served for several years. I went on to serve as State Treasurer, Second Vice State Regent and First Vice State Regent and then was elected as State Regent.



My first National Convention was as a Delegate in New Orleans, and I have attended all conventions but one since then as a delegate. I have served on the National level as a National Director for four years previously, and was assigned to supervise New Jersey, Massachusetts, West

Virginia, Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire. I also served as Second Vice National Regent. I am currently serving as National Director again and am supervisor for the States of New Hampshire, Vermont and West Virginia.

I continue to be active on the local and state levels while serving on the National level. I am committed to service and find this helps fulfill a promise to the Blessed Mother for receiving my son and daughter. My family consists of my husband, Louis; my son, Lawrence and his wife and two sons; and my daughter, Lisa and her three children and her two grandchildren.

I hold a Masters Degree in Counseling and worked in a school system for twenty-seven years. I am also a Registered Nurse and worked in hospitals as a supervisor in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Louis and I are members of St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church in Indiana, PA. I have also received the Medal of Honor for service to the church and community from Bishop Lawrence Brandt, Bishop of Greensburg, PA.

National Director, **Joyce Ann Fleming**. I have been a member of the Massachusetts Catholic Daughters of the Americas for thirty-one years. Born in East Liverpool, Ohio, I moved to Massachusetts in 1965 to attend Suffolk University. There I met Theodore M. Fleming. We have been married forty-one years and have a daughter, Michelle Ann, who is thirty-three years old.



Catholic Daughters is a Fleming family affair. My mom, Frances Teixeira and I joined Court Pope John Paul II in Medford, Massachusetts, in 1983. My sister, Rita, joined Court Our Lady of Lourdes in Brockton in 1999, and my daughter, Michelle, joined JCDA in 1991

and CDA in 2001. Past State Regent, Lorraine Mulrean, chose Michelle to design the Massachusetts State CDA Web Page.

Between 1983 - 2011, I held all CDA local and state offices. I was fortunate to visit the Holy Land with the Catholic Daughters' Pilgrimage in 2013. I was elected National Director in 2012 and 2014. I am serving as National Director for States of Maryland, New Jersey and Territory of Washington, D.C. for 2014 to 2016.

National Director, **Ruth Guidry**. My name is Ruth Guidry from the State of Louisiana. I have been a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for 50 years. I have served as Regent of my local court in Sulphur on two occasions. I have also served in other offices of my local Court Our Lady of Lasalette #1255.

I served on the State Board from 1984 to 1994, serving as State Regent from 1990 to 1994.

I am a widow with five grown children (3 boys and 2 girls), 7 grandchildren (3 girls and 4 boys) and one deceased grandson. I am currently serving as National Director for my second term.



National Director, **Jo Hammen**. I have been a member of Catholic Daughters for almost 60 years and an active member of Court Ave Maria #1011 in Appleton, Wisconsin. My first office was Historian (now Recording Secretary). I was Regent of the court 1970 to 1973 and again 1996 to 1998. I have held all positions in my local and state courts including serving in the office of local court Treasurer at the present time.

In addition to Catholic Daughters' activities, I am an active member of St. John Nepomucene Parish in Little Chute where I serve as lector, commentator, and cantor. I previously served on the Worship Committee and was manager of the Senior Adult Choir. Presently I am a member of the Folk Choir, the Resurrection Choir, as well as the funeral choir at a neighboring parish.



I was married to Gene Hammen for 41 years until his death in 2002. I have three daughters and their families; Cori and Dan Romenesko, Beth and Scott Schuh, and Meg Murphy-Steinke and Dennis Steinke. I also have six grandchildren; Nick and Caitlin Romenesko, Jamie and Cassidy Schuh, Tim and Katie Murphy.

National Director, **Janet Martineau**. I have a school picture of myself taken at the age of eleven which is near my CDA work area. The child that looks from that frame has eyes filled with expectation and a vision of a future that will be good. It is a reminder of what I once hoped and an assurance that the Spirit that filled me then is still present to assist me in seeing what needs to be done and discerning what actions are required to achieve those goals. Several years of education and training followed as I worked as a Surgical Technician, graduated from the University of Illinois in Education, and taught in a parochial school prior to my marriage.



As a third term National Director, I come from Montana where I am a dental assistant and office manager for my

husband, and have been assigned the states of Alaska, Nebraska and South Dakota as well as chair of the National Newsletter Contest.

Catholic Daughters has been my main ministry for the past 13 years, while still active in many others in my home parish. Catholic Churches look to the laity to offer hospitality, support charities, provide religious education, plus numerous other works of mercy. When a Catholic Daughter Court is present in a parish, the Pastor knows whom he can call upon when a need arises. But our membership must be fed spiritually to grow and sustain ourselves for the various tasks before us. We are now challenged to reach out as our CDA Sisters did decades ago and travel near and far to share who and what we are. At home we must nourish our own membership. Please pray for me and all the National Board, State and Local Officers, and Chaplains as we move forward to once again grow our organization.

National Director, **Susan Moné**. I was born on the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Mother on Feb. 2, 1947 in Bellevue, Pa., the 5th of six children and only girl of Donald and Jean (Soisson) Beatty. My Mother was a nurse and my father worked for thirty-five years for Alcoa. I attended Assumption Grade School and St Benedict's Academy followed by Point Park College. I graduated in 1967 and began a forty- year career as a nurse, thirty-five of which I was a Labor and Delivery nurse. In 1974 I moved from PA



to Arizona and met my best friend and love of my life, Doug, and we married Feb. 9, 1980. Between us we have 6 children, 8 living grand children and 1 special angel. My hobbies are photography, traveling, watching the Steelers and Penguin teams, and playing the piano. And most important is my role as Nana.

I am proud to be a 3rd generation Catholic Daughter. My Grandmother was a fifty-plus year member of Ct. Bellevue. My Mother was also a member for over fifty years - first as a member of Ct. Bellevue for thirty-five years and then a charter member with me in Jan 1977 in Ct. Our Lady of the Desert #2164 Mesa, Az. Ct. Bellevue helped support my Uncle when he was in the seminary. In my court, I have held all of the local offices, served several State chairmanships, District Deputy and all 5 Arizona State offices. I was AZ State Regent 2009-2013 and the highlight was the building of our Habitat House. In my parish, I am a lector, EM and sing in the church's traditional/classical choir. We have enjoyed multiple concert trips to Europe with the choir including singing at the Vatican, Fatima and Lourdes. I am

a co-founder and current President of the parish 501(c)(3) organization "Hands Across the Ocean, Inc." which serves the beautiful people of the Islands of Tonga in the South Pacific and have made eight trips to Tonga.

Now I look forward to focusing on my position as National Director as I continue my work in the Catholic Daughters in Unity and Charity.

National Director, **Margi Oller**. As I begin this second term as National Director, I am reflecting on the journey I have traveled, from member to Court Officer, Ohio State Regent, and National Director. My involvement in these areas has shown the wonderful things we have done in the past and continue to do in helping the least of our Brethren. I have also realized we do many things without knowing how much they have helped someone.



Jim and I just celebrated our 57th wedding anniversary, unfortunately not with our son Jeff who is teaching English in the Ukraine. The commitment I made to marriage and our son is the same as I make to whatever I endeavor to undertake; my parish as a Lector, Extraordinary Minister, the committees and boards, as well to the community groups I lead or belong to. What I have learned through Catholic Daughters is that goals and accomplishments lead me to strive even more for the good of others. I just heard this quote on Sunday "I will not allow the things I cannot do, to interfere with the things I CAN DO."

National Director, **Sheila Storey**. My home state is North Carolina. I graduated from Campbell University and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill's Hospital Institute Graduate Program. For thirty-one years, I worked in administration and management in the UNC-CH's Health Care System. My duties involved personnel, research, and clinical activities.



I have been married to Jim for the past forty-nine years. We have two sons: James Jr. and Alexander. My hobbies include walking, gardening, and designing and making jewelry. Jim and I are the proud owners of two lovable, long-haired miniature dachshunds.

I became a Catholic Daughter in Court Durham #1576 in 1993 and a few months later became their Financial Secretary. Since then, I have held every local and state office except local and state treasurer.

I was elected National Director for a second two year term

at the 2014 National Convention and serve as the national representative for North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia. I am the Fundraising Chairman and a member of the Bylaws and the Membership/Court Development Committees. One of my goals is to continue to help local and state courts develop and implement successful conflict management strategies and techniques in their courts. Another goal is to continue to develop a comprehensive CDA fundraising database program designed to meet the needs of our organization and serve as a platform for future fundraising activities.

Executive Director, **Mary Impellizeri**. I live in Freeport, NY, with my husband of 32 years, Jack, and our children Traci (31), Jack (30) and Jeremy (24). I joined Ct. Stella Maris #822, Freeport, NY, in 1978 when my mother, Mary Blaney, was Regent. I became involved with the court right from the start. State Regent Marion McCormack noticed my enthusiasm and appointed me to the Diocesan Membership Team. I was soon elected Treasurer of the court, “ran the chairs,” and it wasn’t long before I was elected Regent. While I was still Regent, then NY State Regent Helene



Shepard, asked me to also serve as District Deputy. In 2000, I was elected to the NY State Board and elected State Regent in 2007.

In May of that same year, I was hired as the Administrative Assistant at the National Headquarters of CDA, a job I loved with the organization I love. This past January, I was named Executive Director. As Executive Director, I manage the day-to-day workings of the National Office, am responsible for helping to keep CDA fiscally sound, and work closely with the National Regent, Officers and Board in all aspects of the Catholic Daughter organization.

I am so blessed not only to be a part of this organization, but also to be the Executive Director. I look forward to coming to work each day. Although my position now requires a lot of traveling, my family encouragingly stands by me. All who know and have met me can see why I love Catholic Daughters. I love speaking to, and meeting with, members from all over the world. I devote myself to my Church, Our Blessed Mother, my family, and the CDA!

Contact Mary at cdofanat1@aol.com.

Administrative Assistant, **Theresa Duran**. Yes, I am the (much) younger sister of Mary Impellizeri! I live in Freeport, NY, with my husband, Hector, and our children RJ (21), Katie (19) and Matthew (16). I graduated from St. John’s University with a degree in graphic design

and worked in advertising for fifteen years before taking a position as a Teaching Assistant in a special education classroom while raising my children.

I have been a member of Ct. Stella Maris #822, in Freeport, since 1984 when I turned eighteen and my mother, Mary Blaney, said “sign here” (one of the best things Mom ever did for me) and, yes, I did the same thing to Katie!



An employee at HQ since November 2012, I am responsible for all design work at the office. I also maintain State Officer and DD records, am responsible for all new court paperwork, handle all IRS questions, compile copy for SHARE Magazine, edit and design the National Quarterly newsletter, update officer lists, handle convention registration, secure vendors and exhibits for convention, and, as the title suggests, assist in any way needed at the National Headquarters.

Contact Theresa at cdofanat1@aol.com for questions about IRS forms, conventions or CDA procedures.

Membership Secretary, **Gigi Barreca**. I am the newest employee at National. I am a third generation Catholic Daughter and live in Queens with my mother and grandmother. This means I’ve been involved with CDA all my life and joined at Mom’s urging when I turned eighteen. All three of us are members of Ct. Mary’s Nativity #2347, Flushing, NY. I am a graduate of Queens College, where I studied Drama and Theater. I love music, movies and plays.



At the office, I handle membership records in our NetSuite database. This includes, adding new members, taking care of transfers and renewals, deleting members, correcting member information, and inputting new courts into the system. I also answer the phones and file all membership paperwork.

Contact Gigi at cdafiles@aol.com for address changes, deletions or membership questions.

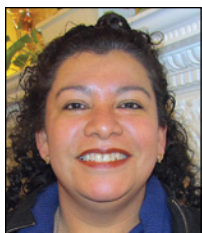
Shipping Coordinator, **Joe Delgado**. I have been married to my wife, Joyce, a member of Ct. St. Sebastian #1922, Woodside, NY, for forty-one years. We are the proud parents of two sons and the even prouder grandparents of three wonderful boys and two fabulous girls. I grew up in Brooklyn and now live in Queens. I’ve been working at the National Office since April 2014. I love to



read and am interested in people. I love to “people watch” on the two different subway trains I take to and from the office each day.

My responsibilities at headquarters include filling, packing, and shipping all orders from the “store.” I also take care of sanitation duties and light handyman tasks around the office. Contact Joe at cdashipping@aol.com with questions about shipping.

Secretary, **Martha Hamboussi**. I am a Brooklyn girl who likes to play piano, cook, fish, bike ride and spend time with my family. I speak Spanish, Arabic, Greek and, of course, English. I am a trade name real estate broker who works with my family’s real estate company, a Notary Public, a certified continuing education instructor for realtors, and I occasionally teach night and weekend classes. I am a charter member and current Regent, of Ct. St. Patrick #2442, Bay Ridge, NY. I have been a Catholic Daughter since 1997 and an employee of CDA since December of 2013.



I am the primary telephone receptionist at the National Office. My responsibilities include entering all sales orders, coordinating accounts payable, ordering supplies, maintaining vendor files, assisting with membership records, updating state and local officer lists and any other general office duties.

Contact Martha at cdaorders@aol.com for ordering merchandise and court officer and chaplain updates.

Membership Secretary, **Gloria Linley**. I live in Brooklyn with my son Justin and my beloved cat, Mauri. I have been a member of Ct. Maria Regina Mater #1751, Brooklyn, NY,



since 2001, and an employee at HQ since 2008. A native of the island of St. Vincent, I moved to New York in 1976. I am an avid reader and read just about everything I can get my hands on.

My main duty is recording all court Financial Reviews, creating rosters, and maintaining local court Financial Review records; however, I also order all gold jewelry and grave markers, assist with answering the phones, take orders and input additions, transfers, renewals and deletions.

Contact Gloria at cdaroster@aol.com for a court roster.

Accounts Receivable, **Brittany Pick**. I’ve been employed at the National Office since August 2014. I live in Williston

Park, NY, with my parents. I have one older brother and a perfect little nephew (born in September)! I graduated from Becker College in Worcester, MA, where I majored in business management. I enjoy the challenge of Sudoku and am a huge movie buff. I love being around people and making them laugh.



I am responsible for billing for dues, invoicing for supplies, recording all payments, and keeping all of the bank records. I love my job here and hope to continue to be a part of the Catholic Daughters National Headquarters for many more years to come!

Contact Brittany at cdadues@aol.com with any concerns about dues, invoices or payments.

Public Relations Director, **Tom Panas**. I am the National Public Relations Chairman. My job is to publicize the Catholic Daughters to the media and I am very involved in SHARE, for which I edit Court News items sent by members, write stories and sell ads for our membership magazine.

I have been with the Catholic Daughters for 13 years. In my personal time, I like to exercise and play softball in New York’s Central Park. I play on a team sponsored by the outdoors group, The Appalachian Mountain Club. I play third base and do a pretty good job at the “hot corner,” if I do say so myself. I get a kick out of the occasional good-natured wisecrack from the younger players: “Hey Tom, that was a good hit. I guess Geritol really works!” I also enjoy public speaking, and am a member of the public speaking group, Toastmasters International, for which I have won speech competitions.



I live just a few blocks away from Headquarters and like being within walking distance. I often “check in” on Headquarters, during bad weather or if there’s a building problem, and shovel the area in front of Headquarters during winter snowstorms. I love doing this: shoveling snow, especially in the middle of a storm, reminds me of my chore as a boy growing up in a small Massachusetts town to “shovel the sidewalk and driveway” after a New England blizzard or Nor’easter. Now, many years later, shoveling in a snowstorm can be hard work, but it’s okay, because as the young folks say, “Geritol really works.”

This is our entire National Team. If there is anything any of us can do to help you, please contact us. Please pray for our National Team and we will pray for you.

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Maryland Court Gets “Crafty” for Children in Need

The Craft Group of Court St. Louis #2579, Clarksville, Maryland, made backpacks and sock monkeys (sock monkeys are toys made from socks fashioned in the likeness of a monkey) for children ages 4-8 residing at the Grassroots Crisis Center and Homeless Shelter. Court members filled the backpacks with crayons, coloring books, workbooks, story books, notebooks and pencils, small games and toys, puzzles, combs, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as the colorful sock monkeys.



Front row, left to right, Phyllis Hipp, Sally Regnier, guests Zoe Smedley, Megan Midas, Martha Galante, and member Nancy Carey. Middle row, left to right, Bonnie Hudak (Grassroots volunteer coordinator), Peggy Whyte, Linda McCabe, Harriet Teixeira, Anna Whiteman, guests Frances Lynch, Ginny Matthias, and member Mary Ellen Cote. Back row, left to right, Daria McGhee, Edna Ballard, Carol Dunn, guest Banashree Seifert, Joyce Nash, Jo-Ann Bielski, Barbara Beach, Carol Miles, Helen Martin, Jane Long and Beth Draminski.



Montana Gives Courage Lion to Six Year Old Cancer Patient

The Montana State Court presented a “Courage Lion” to six-year old cancer patient Sebastian at the Pediatric Center at the Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana, during the 55th Biennial National Convention. In the photo, left to right, are Second Vice State Regent Marilyn Harkins, State Secretary Karen Durow, State Regent Carol Schaaf, State Treasurer JoAnn Harper and First Vice State Regent Kelly Ihde. Sebastian is in front and his parents are in the background.

New Jersey Court and Knights of Columbus Care

Members of Court St. Kateri Tekakwitha #2262, Collings Lakes, New Jersey, partnered with local Knights of Columbus to bag groceries for Partners in Caring at ShopRite in Williamstown, New Jersey. ShopRite distributes food to local food banks which help those in need. In the photo, left to right, are Jerrie Snyder, Rodney Snyder, John Williams, Kathi Ewer, Loretta Murphy, Bob Smith, Detta DeVleeschower, Mary McRae and Dave DeVleeschower.



North Carolina Court Helps Assault Victims

Court St. Bernadette #2629, Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina, made an emergency donation to InterAct of Wake County (according to its website, InterAct is “a private, non-profit, United Way agency that provides safety, support, and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault.”) Because of an alarming 40% increase in abuse against women, InterAct needed paper, cleaning supplies and other items. In the photo, standing with the donated supplies, are, left to right, Paula O’Shea, JoAnn Baudais and Sarah Vavaro. An additional \$100 was given to member Julie Chetney to purchase more supplies.

"For God so loved the world,
that He gave His only begotten Son."

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Leadership – Program Development

Submitted by Helene Shepard, National Regent-Elect
National Leadership Chairman

In doing research on religious groups and service organizations such as we are, there is one issue that seems to be universal – how do we attract and keep new members? How do we entice women to attend our meetings?

We want them to attend our meetings, but we also want them to return to future meetings and ultimately become committed and dedicated team members.

There is a little bit more to leadership in this area than just launching a strong membership campaign, you also need to have a quality product to pitch.

Take Action:

We must first sit down and define exactly **who it is our courts want to attract**. Take a look at your current court membership – how would you define your current members?

- Are you seeking to attract more of the same, or do you need to diversify a little?
- Can you think of some completely new potential member sources?

For example, are we seeking to attract more young people to the court? Perhaps, we are seeking professional women or retirees. You may find that your potential members fall into more than one category.

Be spiritual:

Catholic women are seeking to develop their spiritual life. That is what makes the Catholic Daughters of the Americas different from every other service organization. We need a sound spiritual program followed in all our courts if we are going to attract Catholic women in today's society.

- What spiritual activities and events does your court promote at each meeting?
- What spiritual activities are they encouraged to join in at a State or National level?

- Do you give your members a good spiritual reason for joining your courts?
- Are you working to carry out the theme for this term?

“Whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do for me.” –Matthew 25:40

Be relevant:

It is easy to get caught up in the same old routine and run the same kinds of projects and events year after year. Over time, the needs of the court and parish community change. What might have been a very relevant event in the 1950's may no longer carry the same relevancy in the Twenty-first Century.

This is an equally important point for new member attraction. Potential members are not going to be attracted to a court that performs projects that are completely out of date or unimportant to them. The question is how do you determine what is important and meaningful to them. Conduct a survey, or contact former members and see why they dropped out or what changes they can suggest. Get first-hand testimonials from current members as to why being a Catholic Daughter is important to them; what do they personally get from the experience?

If you have defined exactly who you are trying to attract, then you need only look at what issues are currently important to that group. For example, if you are trying to attract young people, then perhaps something eco-friendly or a green project would be of interest to them.

- Take a look at the projects your court currently does.
- Are they relevant to the audience you are trying to attract?
- Can you think of some project ideas that might appeal to them more?

“Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit.”

—Pope Francis

Be accessible:

You won't attract too many members if information about your court is not easily accessible. The two most likely methods of delivering this information are regular newsletters and a website.

In today's world, most people will jump on line to find information on something in which they are interested. It is important then that your court has a clear and up-to-date website for others to view. The website should contain the answers to the questions they are most likely to ask. At minimum it should provide information on:

What your court is about: What is your mission statement? Of what past achievements are you most proud? Where is your court located? What area do you service?

What are your requirements to join: Are there any restrictions? What is expected of a member? Are there attendance requirements? What does it cost to be a member?

Court project details: What projects are coming up on your court's calendar? Who and what is involved in these projects? What can you expect at a meeting?

Court contact details: Who should a potential member contact to attend a meeting or get involved in a project?

A regular newsletter enhances your court's accessibility. As well as being mailed or emailed to all current members, copies can be left in relevant places as advertising for your court. Newsletters can also be added to your court's website to provide potential members with an idea of what activities your court has been up to recently. Potential members can be sent a copy of the latest newsletter when they make contact to attend a meeting. Copies can also be kept on hand to pass out to possible guests at meetings and projects.

As with the website, each issue of your court's newsletter should provide answers to the questions that potential members are most likely to ask. In most cases this information should not take up too much space in your newsletter. It can also refer readers to your website should they require more details. Use the national website as a resource for information for prospective members.

- Does your court have a website?
- When was the last time it was updated?
- Is it easy for potential members to find the information they need?
- Does your court have a regular newsletter?

Be engaging:

Once you have managed to entice potential members to come to a court meeting or event, it's very important to make them feel welcome and part of the team. Acknowledge their presence. Extend a friendly welcome to them and make them feel a part of what is going on. It can be helpful to assign a "Buddy" to each guest who can answer any questions or explain things as they come up.

As for the meeting itself, it's important to keep the meeting vibrant and flowing. This is just as important for the retention of existing members as for the attraction of new ones. Try to keep the business moving and perhaps have a guest speaker talk on an interesting topic. Be sure to include a time for socializing, whether it is before, after, or during breaks in the meeting. Keep the court projects interesting. Try not to get too repetitive with projects.

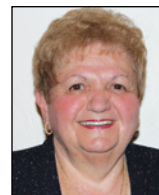
- How does your court make a guest feel welcome at a meeting?
- Are your meetings interesting, or do you think existing members may be finding the format boring?
- When did you last have a guest speaker at your court meeting?

Be Non-Exclusive:

This may seem unimportant to you, but it is surprising to see how many courts are holding back their potential member numbers simply by excluding whole groups of people. Removing exclusions can open up a huge, new potential group.

- Is your court excluding any obvious sources of potential members?
- Do you have membership restrictions holding the court back?
- Could your membership be more open?

People lead very busy lives and will only invest their precious time in activities they feel will be personally enriching and enjoyable. They will not come to us unless we show them that to be a CDA member will not only be enjoyable but it will also be personally enriching. We can't allow ourselves to become little groups who meet in the church basement once a month. We have to be out in the public eye doing things in which women of good faith would like to join. There should be a place in our courts for the young, the old, and women of all ethnic and national backgrounds.



Helene Shepard

Membership and Court Development

Olga Samaniego, First Vice National Regent

Will you BOGO? We belong to such a unique sisterhood! The Catholic Daughters are a group of women who share a faith in Jesus Christ and who strive to live this mission through their faith, daily.

Despite all we do, however, we are a pretty well-kept secret. We have so much to do, and there are fewer and fewer of us to do it. The good news is that there are many women out there who know they have something to offer, and they want to be of service, but they don't know where

one member to join this year.

Are you helping your state to grow? The second part of our membership campaign involves state courts and territories. We are asking each state to institute at least five (5) new courts this term. We are getting lots of inquiries—please follow up on them as they are passed on to you. Additionally, speak to the women in neighboring parishes and communities and tell them about CDA. Ask them if they are interested in a court in their parish. Contact me for information and then go with them to speak to their pastors. We can't afford to let any lead get away from us. There must be women of faith to undertake our work when we can no longer do it. Please contact me for any help you need to start a new court. We have Priests' Packets, membership forms and brochures, and informational sheets that can be passed out after Mass. We also have a step-by-step checklist to take you from your first meeting with the parish priest to the day of institution. Finally, we have a very mobile and experienced membership team, and we will be happy to come out and explain CDA to potential members. So, get started, today! You need five courts, and this term will go by very quickly!

Check out the Membership Contest flyer in this issue. Get all the details, and be a winner at the National Convention in 2016. We are looking forward to celebrating your success in Pittsburgh!

Olga Samaniego



Introducing Catholic Daughters to others and encouraging them to join is an important part of what we do. Bringing women into Catholic Daughters brings them closer to the Church and God.

or how to get started. Invite them to visit your court. Invite them to work with you. As you show them how to live lives of service, your life will be enriched, too. It is a great gift to work and pray with a sisterhood—share the gift! Don't forget our membership drive—BOGO! Bring one; Gain one! We can double our membership if everyone will invite just

2014-2016 CDA MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

BOGO! Bring one; Gain one!



Contest Dates:

August 1, 2014, to June 1, 2016

Goals: Every member will participate in **BOGO! Bring one; Gain one!**
Every state will institute five new courts!

Local Court Prizes

\$200 1st Place
\$150 2nd Place
\$100 3rd Place

to the courts that brings
in the most new members.

First, Second, and Third place
awarded in each division.

Division One: 1 – 75 members

Division Two: 75-150 members

Division Three: 150+ members

Largest percentage of increase will determine
winners in each division.

State Court Prizes

\$500 1st Place
\$350 2nd Place
\$200 3rd Place

to States that bring in the most
new courts over the requisite 5.

First, Second, and Third place
awarded in each division.

Division One: 5 to 20 courts

Division Two: 21-75 courts

Division Three: 76+ courts

Tie breaker will be determined by total number
of Charter Members welcomed in the state.

Special awards will be presented by our National Chaplain to members who are instrumental
in developing courts and/or spreading the word and publicizing CDA!

Award winners will be nominated by their State Regents or National Representatives.

How will you BOGO? For more info: olgasamaniego@hotmail.com

Quality of Life

What is Quality of Life? It is actions, activities, and words in our personal lives; it is the activities of our courts and our communities that lead us to live the theme of our National Regent, “Whatever you do for the least of my brethren you do for me.” (Matthew 25:40)

Sisters, it is little things we do daily that lead us to lives of service. How often do we help others without even thinking about it? Our actions have a positive influence and add commitment to our lives, but, more importantly, to the lives of others! Our Circle of Love reports sent to state and national should reflect our commitment.

Our Circle of Love Program encompasses social issues and justice, family life issues, values, health, community and worldwide issues, just to name a few. Support of organizations and parish projects that provide food, clothing, personal visits, and financial aid make us stewards to “the least of our brethren!”

What can we do? We are entering a new year and that can be stressful for many. Please consider some of these suggestions. Be aware of domestic abuse and human trafficking. Help families with loss of income or health emergencies. Visit families of deployed military persons and adopt a service person [email, mail, special treats].

Volunteer in community and school programs, nursing and Veterans homes, and hospitals and those confined to their homes. Visit those who are alone and bring small gifts, bring young people, or plan programs and outings. Just being there for them and letting them know you care will provide a blessing. These are just a few ideas.

Our National Regent, Shirley Seyfried, has asked each court to undertake a new project in each year of the biennium. Now is the time to begin! Once you are active in these endeavors, report your progress to Shirley. When

we are working in these ways, we are more visible to others thus providing interest in joining us. This is good start into the membership program BOGO! Bring One – Gain One. Bring a new person and show her first hand who we are and what we do.

In future articles, we will explore other areas of service.

With God’s help we, **Can Do Anything!**

*Margi Oller, National Director
Quality of Life National Chairman*



Quality of Life is the national program that ministers to the needs of all. It embodies the Catholic Daughter wish “to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow and sickness.”

The Fruit of Silence

Olga Samaniego, First Vice National Regent

As you read this article, we have all just been through a joy-filled holiday season. It was all so terribly wonderful that you are all probably as exhausted as I am.

Cooking, cleaning, entertaining, decorating, (whew!) shopping, choir practice, Christmas plays, it was a wonderful time, and we are all rather glad that we don't have to do it again until next year. Even though we need it, there isn't going to be much time to rest. Our everyday lives are just as busy as the holidays. This summer we will probably all come back from vacation needing a vacation. Real life is hectic, and we are pulled in so many directions—directions we may love—directions we may even volunteer for—but directions that are stressful, nonetheless. So, how do we do all that we are called to do? How do we remain committed to our tasks even when they become tedious or demanding? With the world in such a hurry and with all we have to do, how do we experience that abundant life that Christ has promised?

I know, with all my heart, that the answer is prayer. Knowing and doing, however, are sometimes two different things. There are only so many hours in the day, and our schedules are full. We often ask ourselves, "I have to be at work, and I have to pick up the kids—and tonight is homework, or PTA, or Karate, or CDA. How can I take time to pray?" Perhaps a better question to ask ourselves is, "How can I not?" That time with God is what sustains us. It's what gives us direction so that we can live purposefully rather than hectically. It's that time spent with God that centers us and gives us the energy and commitment needed to fulfill His will and His plan for our lives. So the question remains—how?

Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta helped me a great deal with this question when I read her words, "The fruit of silence is prayer; the fruit of prayer is faith, the fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, the fruit of service is peace." Those words really hit me—the fruit of silence is

prayer!! My world is never really silent. I always have the TV blaring or a CD playing. Even when I am working there is always something going on in the background. I am writing a letter AND listening to an old movie. I am answering email, talking on the cell, and watching John Wayne. I am never "unplugged." For me, silence started off as an interesting experiment, but it has yielded great fruit. I find myself looking for moments of silence—moments when I can just listen to God. Did you know you can fold clothes and unload the dishwasher without listening to "The Chew" or "Dr. Phil?" I didn't, but I do now. Interestingly enough, I learned that the silence needed to extend even to me. I needed to learn just to sit quietly

in the presence of God, at home or in Church, and not say anything—not ask for anything—not try and explain what I need and why—just silence. That itself made prayer easier because I wasn't trying to come up with something to say. It is so much easier to hear God when my mouth is closed! Who knew??

Blessed Mother Theresa's words are even more powerful when I consider who we are as Catholic Daughters. We are women of service, and we want that service to be powerful and to bring us peace. In order for that to happen, however, our service has to be rooted in prayer, faith, and love. Many of you, I am sure, are much better than I at making time for prayer. For those of you who are not, may I suggest starting with silence. Look for ways to be alone with God. We are so blessed in our God—He honors our attempts at getting to know Him, and He always meets us more than half way. Our God is an awesome God!!

Olga Samaniego



Catholic Daughters' spirituality takes many forms and is experienced in many different places. What remains constant is sharing prayer with one other.

Habitat Build in California

By Shirley Seyfried

On October 25, 2014, many friends, relatives, Catholic Daughters, neighbors, and volunteers gathered to dedicate the first two new homes built in Porterville by Habitat for Humanity. Although there had been dreams of a Habitat house in Porterville for almost twenty years, a “Building Hope in Porterville” Committee was formed in 2010 and fundraising began.

Fundraising continued for three years and building plans began to fall into place for one house when the Habitat Affiliate of Tulare County was contacted by the California State Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The California Catholic Daughters had been holding a raffle for

many years as a state fundraiser, when then State Regent Emily Guilherme suggested that they put the profits from the raffle toward a Habitat house. For several years the profits were set aside, and in 2013, they had saved enough money to co-sponsor a house with CDA National Habitat for Humanity. When CDA chose Tulare County Habitat Affiliate as the place to build their home, the “Building Hope in Porterville” committee and the Habitat Affiliate, realized they now could build two houses instead of one. Two families were chosen for the homes and on September 21, 2013, the Wall Raising Ceremony took place.

Over the next year, many volunteers, including many family members of the homeowners, were trained to work on the house by construction manager Ron Rindge. Other volunteers brought refreshments or provided other ancillary services. The completion of these homes was a result of many donated volunteer hours which were truly a labor of love. Members of the National board including National Regent Anne Nelson and her husband, Carl, National Regent Elect Shirley Seyfried and her husband, Dave, First Vice National Regent, Helene Shepard, Second Vice National Regent Olga Samaniego, National Secretary Treasurer, Sherry Nilles, and National Director, Emily Guilherme traveled to Porterville during the week of October 21-26, 2013 to help build. State Regent Melody Ciaravino also helped build during that week. Following that week, many Catholic Daughters came at different times to either help build or provide food for the workers. Finally, in October, 2014, the homes were completed, and the families moved into their new homes. The families who moved into the homes were



Left to right, Immediate Past National Regent Anne Nelson, Second Vice National Regent Sherry Nilles, National Regent Shirley Seyfried and National Regent-Elect Helene Shepard hold the hammer in preparation for their days work.



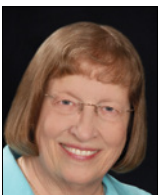
Left to right, Second Vice National Regent Sherry Nilles, National Regent Shirley Seyfried, California Quality of Life Chairman Lil Draxton, Immediate Past National Regent Anne Nelson, California District Deputy Mary Tafoya, National Regent-Elect Helene Shepard and First Vice National Regent Olga Samaniego pose for a picture after lunch provided by Lil and Mary for the builders.



Left to right, Habitat Homeowner Vanessa Travino's grandmother, Vanessa Travino, National Regent Shirley Seyfried and First Vice National Regent Olga Samaniego.

Rosa Elizondo and her three children, 15 year old Jesse, 12 year old Josh, and 8 year old Camila, and Vanessa Trevino and her 6 year old son Izaiah and 5 year old daughter Audrina. Rosa is currently working for the Porterville Unified School District and is in a teaching credential program and Vanessa is a practical nurse and works for a doctor in town. Both Vanessa and Rosa are extremely deserving, hard-working women who have overcome many challenges to be where they are today. They, along with their families and friends, put in endless hours of work on the houses; one can safely say that they built these homes with their blood, sweat, and tears. In order to qualify for the homes, both homeowners spent 350 "sweat equity" hours helping to build their homes. They will now pay for their homes with regular mortgage payments but they do not pay interest on the loans.

National Regent Shirley Seyfried and First Vice National Regent, Olga Samaniego attended the dedication, wished God's richest blessings on the homeowners and presented them with several symbolic gifts explaining the meaning of each gift as it was given. They also presented a Wal-Mart gift card to each home owner to help furnish their new homes. Both Vanessa and Rosa expressed deepest appreciation for their beautiful new homes and for everything that everyone who was involved with the build, had done for them.



Thank you to Denise Marchant who contributed some of the information for this article.

Shirley Seyfried



California and National Catholic Daughters with Habitat homeowners Rosa and Vanessa.



Habitat Homeowners, left, Vanessa Trevino, her six-year old son Izaiah and five-year old daughter Audrina. Right, Rosa Elizondo and her three children, 15 year-old Jesse, 12 year-old Josh, and eight year-old Camila. Audrina and Josh are holding the bibles presented to them by the Catholic Daughters.

Mutual admiration and respect

CatholicTV and Massachusetts CDA

By Tom Panas

CatholicTV is a Catholic television station based in Watertown (near Boston), Massachusetts. It began in 1955 as the first Catholic television station in the United States. CatholicTV began broadcasting within the Boston Archdiocese and has grown to reach all 50 states.

Massachusetts State Regent Judi Shooter of Court Henry A. Sullivan #584, Danvers, Massachusetts, spoke of her admiration for CatholicTV. “I think that providing good-quality Catholic shows for those who are homebound or not able to attend Mass at a church is incredibly important. Television is a fabulous way to reach many people around the globe. It does cost money so it is an honor to help Father Reed (CatholicTV President) and CatholicTV reach their goals and raise those funds.”

Director of Marketing and Programming Bonnie Rodgers added, “The Catholic Daughters have been tremendously helpful in many, many ways, especially during our Telethon.”



Left to right: Connie Pagan and Past Massachusetts State Regent Linda Coletti being interviewed on “This is the Day” by Father Robert Reed.

Judi explained. “Our role on the Telethon is to chat with Father Reed and Jay Fadden (Executive Vice President and General Manager) during the shows. We are on the air answering phone calls in between. We record Telethon donation information from the callers, take special requests such as ‘in memory of’ or ‘anniversary of,’ wave to them so they can see who they are speaking with and fill out donation forms for Father Reed and Jay to read on the air. We are scheduled for a three-hour time slot on one day.

“While manning the phones at the Telethon we take many calls and donations from Catholic Daughters from across Massachusetts. The Massachusetts State Board presents Father Reed with a donation during the Telethon.”

“There are 12 seats to fill and each year 12-15 Catholic Daughters from Boston area courts have happily volunteered,” Judi says proudly. “We’ve been especially pleased that members from three Junior Courts have participated: Court St Joan of Arc, Court Elizabeth Ann Seton and Court Our Lady of Providence.” (The late Kristie Vasquez, president of Junior Court St. Joan of Arc, participated; Kristie died at a very young age from leukemia, while she was still active as the court’s president).

In return, Bonnie reaches out consistently to the Catholic Daughters to appear on CatholicTV programs. Earlier this year, CatholicTV invited National Regent Anne Nelson to appear on *The Gist*, a women’s issues program (Anne was unable to make it because of a scheduling conflict); and

CatholicTV has asked newly-reelected National Director Joyce Ann Fleming, who lives nearby, to be on the program this fall.

When asked why Massachusetts Catholic Daughters like CatholicTV so much, Judi says, "Catholic TV has wonderfully spiritual and dedicated people in front of and behind the cameras who work tirelessly to bring Christ's love and light to those in need. What's not to love?"

Bonnie believes that one of the keys to CatholicTV's success lies in its programs. "We have innovative programming, including a great game show for kids, 'WOW: The CatholicTV Challenge' and 'House+Home,' a warm and wonderful show about families. We also broadcast the Rosary, 'Going My Way,' with two priests singing, which is a lot of fun, and 'The Gist,' a fabulous show for women. We were disappointed that scheduling did not allow for Anne Nelson to appear on The Gist. We also broadcast ordinations and installation of Bishops across the United States, and the Archdiocese of Boston ordinations to the permanent diaconate and the priesthood.

"Our signature talk show is 'This is the Day,'" Bonnie

continues. "But I think the cornerstone of our programming is Daily Mass in our beautiful chapel. More than 100 priests have celebrated Mass there. We broadcast Mass three times a day, and place it on podcast and our robust website www.CatholicTV.com. The audio version of the Mass is offered on local Catholic radio and Redeemer Radio in Indiana. People from all over the world, including our military men and women, view and listen to our Mass." One interesting and tidy statistic is that CatholicTV employs 27 people – one for each program.

When asked what she would like to say to Share's 70,000 readers, Bonnie said, "I would like to make incredible expressions of gratitude. The Catholic Daughters in both Massachusetts and at National have been sturdy advocates. Secondly, I would like to thank all the Catholic Daughters for being such a powerful female presence and wisdom in the church."

For more about CatholicTV, visit <http://www.catholicTV.com>.

Tom Panas

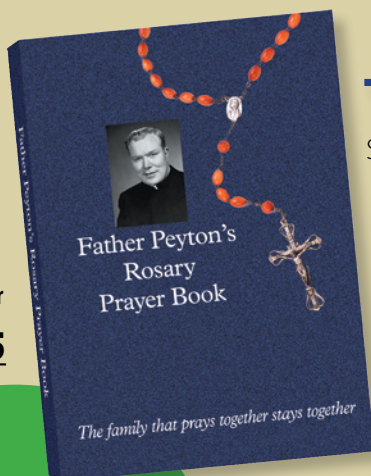


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– Morte D'Arthur by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

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Iowa Contest Winner Expresses Compassion in Poem

Court Mt. Carmel #354, Lawler, Iowa, said that Samantha Reicks won the court's education contest and first place in the national poetry category. Her poem was based on the contest theme, "Jesus Loves Us. How do we spread that love?"

Left to right, Shirley Sabelka, regent; Edna Jirak, education chairman; Samantha Reicks; Rev. Nick March, pastor, Assumption Parish.



New Junior Court Instituted in Maryland

Junior Court Holy Family of St. Joseph #2245, Hagerstown, Maryland, was instituted at St. Joseph Parish in Hagerstown on Sunday, June 8, 2014. In the photo are charter members, bottom row, left to right, Lindsay Fetchu, Meredith Jones, Leah Jones, Payton Weaver and Sarah Becker. Top row, left to right, Monica Becker; Emily Becker, Maddy Semler, Katie Noel, Leah Jones and Regent Melissa Noel.



Nebraska Court Announces Contest Winner

Court Our Lady of Loretto #709, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, announced that Jacob Zitek took second place in the Art Division of the National Education contest. CDA Education Chair Barbara Toman and Principal Linda Isaacson presented an award and \$50 check to Jacob, who is a student at St. John the Baptist School in Plattsmouth. In the photo, left to right, are Pastor Rev. Loras Grell, Debbie Zitek (Jacob's mother), Barbara Toman, Jacob, Linda Isaacson and Regent Mary Lou Salazar.



New Jersey Court Holds Education Contest

Court St. Mary of the Lake #310, Lakewood, New Jersey, announced winners of the National Education Contest for 2014. In the photo, surrounded by the 19 contest winners and the Principal of Holy Family School in Lakewood Lee Samaha, are, left to right, Regent Betty Ann Gerrizzo, Education Chairman Regina Brady and Co-Chairman Charlotte Bartoff.



New York Court Announces National Education Contest Winners

Court Bishop Kellenberg #1756, North Merrick, New York, announced national winners in the 2014 National Education Contest. In the photo, left, is Noah Nicholson, who won Third Place in Computer Art. Right is Ariana Cserenyi, who won First Place in Poetry and First Place in Computer Art. Both students attend St. Martin de Porres Marianist School in Uniondale, New York.



Oregon Court Awards Annual Scholarship

Court St. Pius X #2335, Klamath Falls, Oregon, announced the court's annual scholarship at the Henley High School Awards Night. Regent Mary Waters presented the \$500 scholarship to Sarah Wolf, a 2014 Graduate of Henley High School. Sarah planned to attend Boise State University, majoring in kinesiology and minor in dance.

Mary Waters, left, with Sarah Wolf



Pennsylvania Court Announces Scholarship Winner

Court St. Victoria #646, Houtzdale, Pennsylvania, announced Zachary Gobert, from St. Basil's Catholic Church in Coalport, as the court's 2014 annual scholarship winner. In the photo, left to right, are Betty Reese, recording secretary; Barb Archer, treasurer; Zachary; Annette Freeberg, regent; Peggy Murawski, financial secretary; and Susie Tiesi, vice regent.

New Junior Court Instituted in Texas



Court Lydia Miller #2187, Harlingen, Texas, announced the formation of a new Junior court. The court was instituted during Mass at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Harlingen on August 9. In the photo, top row, left to right, JCDA Coordinator Ludivina Montes, Texas State Secretary Melodie Brunt, Leslie Nicole Cruz, Luzinda Dominguez, Nelly Andrade, Briana Chapa, Cassandra Morin, Mia Garcia, Alyssa Gonzalez, Jocilyn Rodriguez, Second Vice State Regent Rosie Stockwell, JCDA Coordinator Sherry Cruz, Regent/JCDA Chairman Leticia B. Rodriguez, State JCDA Chairman Peggy Supak and State JCDA Chairman Sheila Martinka. Bottom row, left to right, District Deputy Janie Corona, Chloe Mendoza, Cassandra Isabel Cisneros, Addyson Enriquez, President Rebecca Leann Rodriguez, First Vice President Teresa Marie Rodriguez, Second Vice President Odaliz Saucedo, Secretary Elizabeth Zamora, Caciana Saucedo, Casandra Saucedo, Jennifer Marie Zepeda, Olivia Garcia, Alyssa Morin, Akira J. Heckman, Karina Sandoval, and JCDA State Vice President Olivia Perez.



Texas Junior Receives JCDA Scholarship

Samantha Siegel of JCDA Court St. Paul, Shiner, Texas, received the \$1000 National JCDA Scholarship that is awarded each year to a graduating senior who is a member of JCDA. Samantha was a court officer, participated in extracurricular activities in her high school and was an organist for the local parish.

Samantha Siegel

Washington Court Announces Annual Scholarship Winner

Court St. Pius X #2270, Mountlake Terrace, Washington, announced Kaytie Klinck as the winner of the court's annual \$1000 college scholarship. Kaytie is the granddaughter of Rose Klinck who has been a member of Court St. Pius for ten years. Kaytie plans to attend the University of Washington and pursue a degree in nursing.



Kaytie Klinck



West Virginia Court Announces National Education Award Winners

Court Bishop McDonnell #1865, Wierton, West Virginia, announced three award winners for the National Education Contest. Alisandra Welch placed second in Computer Art, Alan Alimario was third in Music and Emily Pietranton third in Poetry. In the photo, left to right, Eleanor Davis, court education chairperson, stands next to Alisandra Welch, Alan Alimario and Emily Pietranton holding their state awards.

Wisconsin Students Win National Scholarships

Members of Court St. Rose #1062, Wausau, Wisconsin, were proud that two students they sponsored were National Education Contest winners. In the photo, left to right, Regent Anne Bates presents Joseph Nething with a check for winning third place in Photography while Ann Selinger receives a check for the first place award in Art from Education Chair Pauline Riedl.



California Court Makes Bibs for the Elderly

Members of Court Salinas #686, Salinas, California, made 65 bibs for residents of Madonna Manor, a residential care facility for senior women owned by California Catholic Daughters. Madonna Manor Activities Director Marissa Ramirez accepted the bibs from Court Salinas members Susan Castro (who coordinated the project), Vivian Rimando, Dorothy Filson, Irma Haro and Janet Silva. Members not present who sewed or donated material were Bridget Sparks, Brigida Padua, Raquel Zuezada and Shirley Breedon.

Iowa Court Donates School Supplies

Court St. Anthony #330, Council Bluffs, Iowa, donated a number of needed supplies to local schools. These included back packs, mechanical pencils, pencil cases, stick glue, washable and colored markers, wide rule spiral notebooks, folders, erasers, crayons and colored pencils. In the photo, Treasurer Shar Pekny, left, and Pam Ratigan stand at the main office of Council Bluffs Community Schools with some of the school supplies donated by the court.



Iowa Court Leads Public Rosary Rally



Members of Court Our Lady of Fatima #1492, Manning, Iowa, joined a Public Rosary Rally with 17 people attending. The event is sponsored annually by America Needs Fatima (according to its website, "America Needs Fatima is a campaign to capture the heart and soul of America with the Message of Our Lady of Fatima"). The rally is held annually on the Saturday closest to October 13, which is the day that Mary appeared to the three children of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun occurred. The rally was led by Carleen Schwieso with the assistance of other court members. In the photo, pictured by the tree on the left side, standing, is Vicki Thielen; seated,

Leo Willenborg, Darlene Willenborg, Arlene Meier, Iola Muhlbauer and Ramona Hughes. On the right, seated on the left side of the table, Marge Croghan, Bea Akers, Joan Bauer, Phyllis Muhlbauer and Imelda Kerkhoff. Seated on the right side of the table, Rev. John Gerald, Butch Meier, Imelda Langel and Dolores Herbers. Standing, right, leading the rally is Carleen Schwieso.

Aloha Spirit for Kansas Court

Members of Court Salina #1972, Salina, Kansas, celebrated the Aloha Spirit (which is defined as "warm, friendly acceptance") while being welcomed to the home of court member Rose Pace. Rose gave court visitors a tour of her garden during which they prayed the Memorare. All were treated to Hawaiian music and tropical food while learning more about the Aloha Spirit. Many guests dressed in Hawaiian clothing.



Though in Kansas, many court members are dressed to be in Hawaii.



Louisiana Court Celebrates CDA Sunday With Communion Mass

Court Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Court #1785, Lake Charles, Louisiana, attended a Mass on Catholic Daughter Sunday to remember deceased members. In the photo, left to right, are Regent Tracy LeMieux, Msgr. James Gaddy, pastor of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church, District Deputy Melina Dally and Recording Secretary Sue Long.

Minnesota Court Celebrates Catholic Daughter Sunday

Court St. Rita #409, Perham, Minnesota, observed Catholic Daughter Sunday with Mass at St. Henry's Catholic Church in Perham followed by a continental breakfast. The Mass was celebrated by National Chaplain Rev. Matthew Kuhn (who is also



Pastor at St. Henry's parish) assisted by Deacon Randy Altstadt. Guests included National Regent Shirley Seyfried, Minnesota State Vice Regent Margie Keller and State Treasurer Sophie Zvonar. Catholic Daughters participated in the Mass as sacristan, lector, singers and Eucharistic ministers. Regent Dianne Rohde-Szarke spoke at this and other weekend Masses asking women to join the Catholic Daughters.

Left to right, Rosie Altstadt, treasurer, Sophie Zvonar, Minnesota State Treasurer and court member, Rev. Matthew Kuhn, national chaplain and pastor of St. Henry's Catholic Church, National Regent Shirley Seyfried, Court St. Rita member Florence Hammers and Dianne Rohde-Szarke, court regent.

New York Court Retreats to Serenity

Members of Court Theresa #806, Waterloo, New York, spent a day in retreat at Cobblestone Center, according to its website, "an interdenominational retreat/renewal center located in the Finger Lakes Region of rural Upstate New York." Those attending were Janet Brown, Maria Corris, Rose Mary Cosentino, Teresa Dendis, Tootsie Franchechi, Adele Giovannini, Rosalie Karweck, Linda Nightingale, Mary Paradise, Debbie Patsos, Kathy Peters, Theresa Rondo, Joan Saxton, Jeanette Seamans, Colleen Spellecky and Joanne Vacca. The presenter was Sister Anne Alderman.



Texas Court Brings Birthday Cheer to Nursing Home

Court Queen of the Holy Rosary #2282, La Grange, Texas, served food at the Monument Hill Nursing Center monthly birthday party bringing joy to the elderly residents there. In the photo, with some of the delicious desserts they served, front row, left to right, Margie Janda, Lillian Kallus, Ann Janda and Joyce Muras. Back row, left to right, Alice Zezula and Georgia Vyvial.

Texas Court Helps Habitat

Each year Court Protector of Families, #2621, Schertz, Texas, helps The Good Shepherd parish in Schertz with its annual Habitat for Humanity house build. Court members and their families work on construction each week and sometimes prepare and serve lunch for those hard at work. At the Habitat construction site left to right, Jill Riojas, Connie Bulat, regent, Carole Lazarini and Christina Swientek.



People



Guam Catholic Daughters Honor Parish Pastor

Members of Court Our Lady of Camarin #2047, Tamuning, Guam, gathered on Priest Appreciation Day to honor Rev. Agustin Gumataotao. Father Gumataotao is the pastor of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Sinajana, Guam. Standing in back of Father Gumataotao, are, left to right, Teresita Sablan, Emma Aflague, Priscilla Muna, Agnes P. Unpingco and Evelyn Rodriguez.

Iowa Court Announces New Officers

New officers for Court St. Rose of Lima #6, Carroll, Iowa, were installed during Mass celebrated by Rev. Timothy Johnson. Front row, left to right, Regent Bev Vonnahme, Vice Regent Rosie Obman and Treasurer Sharon Daniel. Back row, left to right, Financial Secretary Peggy Wilberding, District Deputy Kaye Stock, Secretary Sue Greving and Chaplain Father Johnson.



New Officers Installed at Louisiana Court

Court Padre Pio #2141, Cottonport, Louisiana, installed new officers. In the photo, standing, left to right, Immediate Past Regent, now Recording Secretary Margaret Ducote and Treasurer Pat Hukins. Seated, left to right, Vice Regent Nita Brouillete, Regent Sue White and Financial Secretary Katherine McDonald.

Louisiana Court Elects Officers and Celebrates Anniversary

Court Massabielle #1134, Morgan City, Louisiana, elected officers for the 2014-2016 term while celebrating its 85th anniversary. Court Massabielle was instituted in 1929 by Rev. Souby of Sacred Heart Church in Morgan City. In the photo, left to right, are Denise Ritchie, regent; Pat Autery, vice regent; Sundra Deshotel, treasurer; Veronica Governale, financial secretary; and Terrie Yerett, recording secretary



Patriotic Massachusetts Catholic Daughter Honored

Court Brookline #488, Brookline, Massachusetts, is proud to announce that court member Captain Mary Jo Majors, NC, USNR (Ret) was awarded the Ahern Family Charitable Foundation's 2014 "Patriot Award." Mary Jo, a former Junior Catholic Daughter, is the first woman to receive this award and its seventh recipient. The Patriot Award is conferred upon specially selected individuals who "love, support and defend their country." In the photo, Mary Jo accepts the award at the Marriott Hotel in Burlington, Massachusetts.



Massachusetts Court Installs New Officers

New officers installed for Court Maplewood #510, Malden, Massachusetts, are, left to right, "Bunny" Lorraine Walsh, treasurer, Carol Nania, recording secretary, Maureen Walsh, regent; National Director Joyce Ann Fleming, vice regent and Christine Murphy, financial secretary.

Past National Directors Club Elects Officers

The Biennial National Directors' Club dinner was held during the 55th Biennial National Convention. Thirty-five directors and several court chaplains were present. Past National Regent M. Joan McKenna, who organized the wonderful ceremony, conducted the open business meeting by leading a spirited discussion. Deceased members were honored and a delicious dinner was served. Officers elected included Past National Director Lois Nelson, president; Immediate Past National Regent Anne Nelson; secretary and Past National Director Kim Spicka as returning treasurer. In the photo, left to right, are Past National Director Jo Ann Schaefer; Lois Nelson; Past National Regent Libby Ramirez; Past National Director Idella Miller; Past National Regent Joanne Tomassi; M. Joan McKenna; Past National Regent Claudia Bosch; and Past National Secretary-Treasurer Rose Tomassi.



Minnesota Court Honors Fifty-Year Members

Lisa Diekmann, regent of Court St. Bernard #886, Lismore, Minnesota, recently presented the Book of Prayer to three of the nine members of the court who have held 50 years or more of membership. The Book of Prayer, a collection of favorite prayers from the thirty Minnesota courts, includes submissions from district deputies, state chairmen, state officers, state chaplain and National Regent Shirley Seyfried. Book of Prayer recipients, front left to right, are Vera Loonan and Bette LeBrun; back row, left, 50 year member Joyce Erdman with Regent Lisa Diekmann.

People



New Officers for New York Court

Court Queen of Angels #869, Hicksville, New York, began its 91st year by installing new officers. The ceremony began with Mass celebrated by Pastor and Chaplain Rev. Jim Stachacz. The newly installed officers are, left to right, Kathleen Doyle, financial secretary; Maria Petsche, vice regent; Noreen O'Donnell Crayne, regent; and Carol Dougherty, treasurer. Not present for the photo was Recording Secretary Katherine Balnis.

New York Receives Personal and Group Awards

Catholic Charities of the Ogdensburg Diocese, New York, posthumously honored New York's Immediate Past State Regent Penny Martin with the Caritas Award. Penny, who was a member of Court St. Joan of Arc #867, Willboro, New York, died suddenly in March of 2014. Penny's husband Ed Martin—who attended with their daughters, Penny's mother Bernie Marcotte (also a member of Court St. Joan of Arc) and other family members—graciously accepted the award from Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg, New York.

Honored with the Catholic Charities President's Award that night were the 13 courts of the Ogdensburg Diocese, many of whom were present at the dinner and accepted certificates and thanks from Bishop LaValley. Also in attendance were National Regent Elect Helene Shepard, National Executive Director Mary Impellizeri, New York First Vice State Regent Heather Rave, New York State Treasurer Emma Lou Smith, Administrative Assistant Theresa Duran and Past New York State Officer Patricia Gavin.



Top: Seated in front are Helene Shepard and Bernie Marcotte of Ct. Joan of Arc #867, Willboro, NY; standing (l to r) Emma Lou Smith, Mary Impellizeri, Sister Donna Franklin, Heather Rave, Bishop LaValley, Patsy Gavin, Ed Martin, and Fr. Scott.

Bottom: CDA members from the Diocese of Ogdensburg gather for a photo after the evening's events.



New York Court Installs New Officers

Officers, members and new members of Court St. Joseph #975, Ronkonkoma, New York, gather at the reception following the installation of new officers. Seated in the front row, left is Chaplain Rev. Michael Maffeo. On the right is New York State Regent Mary Ziesig. Regent Theresa Cronin is in the center. Gathered with them are officers, members and new members of Court St. Joseph

People

Pennsylvania Court Celebrates New Officers, Anniversary and CDA Day

Court Conception #35, Corry, Pennsylvania, celebrated its 110th anniversary and installed new officers on Catholic Daughter Sunday. The court also welcomed new members Linda Brown, Audrey Theiss and Darlene Wawrejko. Mass was celebrated by Rev. Mark Hoffman. Front row, left to right, Regent Rosemary Baker; Mary Ann Watrous (sitting in for absent Vice Regent Elizabeth Wascak); and Financial Secretary Frances Sventek. Back row, left to right, Treasurer Mary Kunovic and Recording Secretary Patricia Phillips.



Pennsylvania Court Installs New Chaplain

Court Sharon #507, Sharon, Pennsylvania, installed Rev. Matthew Strickenberger as the court's new chaplain. The ceremony was held during a Saturday Vigil celebration of the Liturgy in the presence of Pastor Father Strickenberger's congregation at St. Bartholomew Church, Sharpsville, Pennsylvania. Father Strickenberger lit a vigil candle at the altar of Our Lady asking for her guidance in his chaplaincy. In the photo, front row, Past Regent Catherine Holl; back row, left to right, Regent Antoinette DeAngelis, Chaplain Strickenberger and Vice Regent Margaret Green.

Texas Court Supports Deaconate Ordination

Members of Court Our Lady of Grace #1734, Rowena, Texas, celebrated the ordination of Deacon Adam Droll. Adam has been the "Adopted Seminarian" of the court since the early years of his training for the priesthood. He will continue his studies at Mundelein Theological Seminary in Mundelein, Illinois. Adam will be ordained a priest in 2015.



Left to right, Patricia Vancil, Virginia Franke, Helen Lange, Dorothy Schwertner, Deacon Droll, Holly Gaston, Annie Ramirez and Dolores Franke. (Photo courtesy of Scherz Studio, San Angelo, Texas)



Texas Court Honors Long-Time Member

Court St. Catherine of Siena #1762, Wall, Texas, honored 70-year charter member Geraldine Halfmann. Geraldine joined Court St. Monica #1262, Olfen, Texas, in 1944 and later transferred to Court St. Catherine when it was instituted in 1957. Standing in support of Geraldine, who is sitting, left to right are Melodie Brunt, Texas state secretary; Peggy Rosales, state regent; and Rebecca Brown, state treasurer.

Anniversaries

Louisiana Court Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

Court St. Helena #2536, Amite, Louisiana, celebrated its tenth anniversary with a banquet attended by over 165 guests including officers and members from neighboring courts. Rev. Jim Sichko from St. Mark Catholic Church in Richmond, Kentucky, was guest speaker. Also sharing in the celebration were Rev. Nicholas J. Nutter, III, former pastor and court chaplain; Jake Forshag, the court's adopted seminarian; Virginia Fisher, district deputy; and Alice Tassin, CDA Kid representative and former state regent. The banquet was dedicated to Mrs. Lula Mae Lombardo for celebrating her sixty year CDA membership.



Left to right, Carroll Glasgow, regent; Beverly Esteven, financial secretary; Joan Koepp, recording secretary; Tonya Milton, immediate past treasurer; Pamela Elder, treasurer; and Father Sichko.

Pennsylvania Court Celebrates 95 Years

Court St. Rita #353, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, which was formed in 1919 when 40 Catholic women waded through snow and slush to gather in a Knights of Columbus room, recently celebrated its 95th anniversary. Like other courts, Court St. Rita has a long history of helping others. The court gave assistance when local mines were closed during the Great Depression by bringing baskets of groceries to those in need, formed Operation Soup Kitchen, delivered trays of cookies to the homebound and elderly and co-sponsored an annual bloodmobile with the Knights of Columbus.

Washington Court Celebrates Centennial Anniversary



Court St. Aloysius #243, Bellingham, Washington, celebrated its 100th anniversary with Mass at the Assumption Catholic Church in Bellingham followed by a dinner reception. Among the dignitaries attending were, left to right, Rev. K. Scott Connolly, pastor, Church of the Assumption; Marie Sokol, first vice state regent; Christy Hall, state regent; Shirley Seyfried, national regent; Bartley Metcalf, regent; Most Rev. Eusebio Elizondo, auxiliary bishop of Seattle, Washington; Lorrie Banning, treasurer; Marie Pavlik, recording secretary; and Jane Hildebrand, financial secretary.

Catholic Literary Giants: A Field Guide to the Catholic Literary Landscape

By Joseph Pearce
(Ignatius Press, San Francisco, 2014)

Reviewed by Peggy Eastman

In this comprehensive and fascinating look at Catholic writers famous for their literary achievements, British author Joseph Pearce, a literary biographer, affirms that good literature can be a means to evangelization. And it can win souls for Christ without compromising the very qualities of subtlety, character development and lyrical description that make it literature.

As a lover of literature, I found this scholarly but very readable paperback book (which has a helpful index) a *tour de force* covering Catholic writers from Dante to Shakespeare to G.K. Chesterton to C.S. Lewis to J.R.R. Tolkien, author of the wildly popular *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, which led to blockbuster movies directed by Peter Jackson. Tolkien was encouraged in his writing about Middle Earth by Lewis, author of *The Screwtape Letters*, *Mere Christianity*, and the *Narnia* stories when both were Oxford University professors.

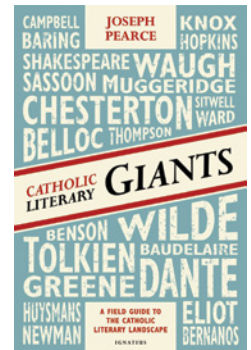
Pope John Paul II, now a saint, is also included in Pearce's book, since the pope was an accomplished poet and prose writer whose story, "The Jeweler's Shop," was made into a feature film. I have enjoyed reading Pope John Paul II's poetry, which has a meditative quality.

What do Catholic literary writers have in common, if anything? They are essentially moral in their world view, believing in the worth of the human soul, the goodness of God's world and the need to defeat evil (Satan) in all its guises – as author Pearce makes clear. Anyone who has read *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy (or seen one of the film adaptations) or read a C.S. Lewis book will recognize immediately the theme of good vs. evil, a theme as old as Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Tolkien himself, who converted to Catholicism at the age of eight following his mother's conversion, is on record as considering his *Lord of the Rings* trilogy a fundamentally religious and Catholic work. And so we have the small, unprepossessing hobbits Bilbo and Frodo Baggins propelled into a saga of dwarves, elves, goblins and trolls to defend good against evil, a quest as old as recorded time.

Joseph Pearce's book, which originally appeared in hardback under another title, also explores the writing of John Henry Newman, an Anglican who converted to Catholicism in 1845 and later became a cardinal. Newman was clearly focused on the spiritual journey of human beings. He wrote a novel, *Loss and Gain*, a fictionalized semi-autobiographical work in which he depicted a young man's search for faith; this book became one of the classic Victorian novels. Pearce states that Newman's *Apologia pro Vita Sua*, published in 1865 and his most famous work, "remains probably the finest exposition of a religious conversion ever written in the English language." Pearce asserts that Newman's "candor and clarity of vision won over many who had previously been hostile to Catholicism, and perhaps no book published since has been quite so instrumental in the popularizing of the Catholic faith in England."

G.K. Chesterton, who has been the subject of entertaining EWTN-TV dramatic presentations, also receives attention in this book. His *Orthodoxy*, published in 1908, was a defense of Christianity considered a major milestone in the development of Christian thought, notes Pearce. Chesterton wrote *The Ball and the Cross*, a novel about two men, one a Catholic and one an atheist, which also explored the search for Christianity's truth. And we learn about St. Thomas More's *Utopia*, a literary vision of an idealized fictional island where violence is shunned, people are generally tolerant and only atheists are despised.

I admire author Pearce for setting straight some misperceptions about a particular literary giant, T.S. Eliot, whose works many of us read as students. When Eliot's controversial post-World War I poem "The Waste Land" was published in 1922, some readers hailed it as a work of profound disillusionment showing the degeneration of traditional values. Not so, according to Pearce. In fact, he asserts, T.S. Eliot – who was much influenced by Dante's *Inferno* – was writing an indictment of a cynical, self-indulgent world without the hope faith brings. In essence, Pearce claims, Eliot was celebrating the beauty beyond the ugliness of the world in his poem, which "modern" readers with no faith did not want to see. Thus the poem has a positive conclusion pointing toward cleansing and resurrection, Pearce maintains.



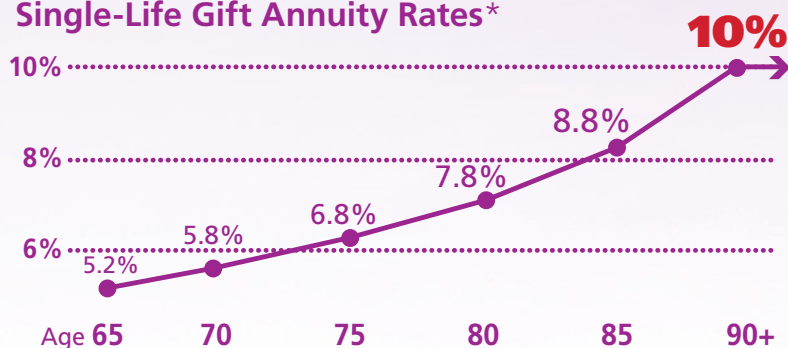
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