

FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN.  
UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

*The Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Board and Staff wish everyone a serene and blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus, a mystery that never ceases to amaze and move us.*

**National Regent**

Susan Moné

**National Officers**

Essie Walker, National Regent-Elect

Connie Dronette, First Vice National Regent

Nancy Bambenek, Second Vice National Regent

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**National Legislative Chairman**

Kathleen Grange

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Arlene Flores

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Joy Balogun

Thelma Smith

Robert Bessard

**Secretary to the National Regent**

Carmella Mongold

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

# **NATIONAL QUARTERLY**



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**[www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)**



**Fall 2025**

**A Message from**

***Susan Moné***

**National Regent**



What a busy time of the year for all of us. Our courts are hosting Advent Retreats or Day of Reflection, planning Christmas brunches and Breakfast with Santa, adopting a family for Christmas, singing Christmas carols at nursing homes and so many other events for the holidays. At your December meeting use the Advent service in the fall quarterly. Don't forget the members unable to join you by sending them Christmas cards or visit them with some Christmas cookies. For our families we are planning for special gatherings, planning travels near and far, Christmas shopping for just that special gift for loved ones, writing Christmas card, and decorating our homes.

As we fill our calendars with all these festivities, it's important to take time for ourselves to remember "The Reason for the Season" and prepare for the Birth of our Savior. Set aside a time and place each day to spend in prayer and meditation as you talk to and listen to God even if it's just 5-10 minutes to talk to and listen to the Lord. Join the National Board as we host a short Advent prayers service every day of Advent on our website at 12 noon central time zone. If you can't join at that time, sign in later to watch it on rerun.

Much is going on behind the scenes as your National Board and the CDA of Iowa are working hard on all the many details big and small for the 61<sup>st</sup> Biennial National Convention July 22-26, 2026 which will be here before you know it. So, start planning to attend and join our CDA sisters from across the country. Soon you will be electing delegates and alternates to the convention. The delegates serve as your voice at the convention if you are not unable to attend. During the coming months of planning the convention please keep the National Board and Iowa CDA in prayers for a successful convention.

In September you received your 2-year calendars which is this year's National fundraiser. Hopefully you have sent a donation for yours as a way for you to help support our order. The same is true of the address labels you will receive in the spring.

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When I attend daily mass, my Catholic Daughter sisters are always in my prayers for your courts and your families. You are special and I am thankful for you and all you do for CDA. YOU are CDA and YOU are what make us what we are.

**“Be a Beacon of Hope, a Light in the Darkness”**

*Blessings,  
Susan Moné  
National Regent*

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**Habitat for Humanity**  
**Aid for Families**

Homeownership presents many challenges, including securing funds to help build or renovate a home. We as Catholic Daughters believe that everyone deserves a safe, clean, and affordable place to live and call home.

Courts have continued to support Habitat by donating the requested \$20.00 in support of our National Project. Your donations have helped to make many families' dreams come true. We thank members and courts for their impactful donations.

Recently, there has been a huge decline in donations toward the CDA Habitat for Humanity Project. Your previous contributions were instrumental in assisting states to achieve their fundraising objectives for the construction project. Let us continue to give to help build a better world.

As a gentle reminder, since 1995, Catholic Daughters have expressed their love by helping to meet the needs of others. Specifically, about shelter. You might ask, why is this one so important? Today, it is important because there is a lack of affordable housing for the poor in every state. Have you toured around your city lately?

In the past, Catholic Daughters of the Americas donations supported disadvantaged families in creating better living conditions. We can keep making a difference.

Mother Teresa tells us to “Give your hands to serve and your heart to love.”

*Essie Walker  
National Habitat for Humanity Chair  
National Regent-Elect*

## ***“In The One, We Are One”***

I just came back from the canonization of the young saints Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati in Rome last September 7. (Yes, if you read my article in the last issue, I was in Rome for the Jubilee of Priests.) These two recent visits are truly blessings I cherish in my heart, and I carried your intentions with me in every church I visited, at each Mass I celebrated, and each moment of prayer I had in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

In both occasions – the Jubilee of Priests and the canonization – my vocation is affirmed in the presence of my brother-priests enthused about our chosen way of life and affirmed in our shared ministry; and in the midst of so many young people and young families celebrating the sanctity of the lives of Saint Carlo and Saint Pier, ones they can relate to and aspire to also become.

And this is the beauty of our faith, my dear Catholic Daughters: no matter where we are in our journey now, we are loved, we are blessed, and we are called. We have each other as strong support, and the love of our families is our sure foundation. We carry the responsibility and privilege of leading the local Court, the State Board and the National Office in different capacities, yet we really are part of one body, with Christ Jesus as the head. As Pope Leo’s motto reflects, “*In Illo uno unum*” which means “*In the One, we are one*”, although we are many, in the one Christ, we are one!

*Father John Erick Villa*  
*National Chaplain*



## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW COURT**

**LA002822 Our Lady Gracia Plena**

Instituted May 18, 2025

Regent Kimberly Laqua

2518 Planters House Lane

Katy TX 77449

Phone # (281) 415-0773

Email [kimlaqua@yahoo.com](mailto:kimlaqua@yahoo.com)

**By District Deputy/State Representative**

## NATIONAL OFFICERS' MEDALLION OF RIBBON

The Medallion of the National officers is gold with gold lettering and National Directors is gold with purple lettering. The symbol on the Medallion is a cross and a crown. The National Officers present today are Our National Regent, \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_ National Regent-Elect, \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_, the First Vice National Regent, \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_, the Second Vice National Regent, \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_, and the National Secretary-Treasurer, \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_, National Directors present are \_\_\_\_\_.

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The Financial Secretary,     Name    , her medallion has a crossed key and quill symbolic of her duties of keeping membership and financial records of the Court.

The Treasurer,     Name    , her medallion has an emblem of crossed keys which is symbolic of her complete authority over funds and of being particularly responsible for their safekeeping.

In addition to these officers, there are many Chairmen and committees working on the projects and programs of our Order. Join them; become active, enthusiastic members so that you will get from your membership the greatest possible return and satisfaction.

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## **PASSING OF THE MEDALLION CEREMONY WITH DESCRIPTION** (OPTIONAL)

We are a sisterhood working together to do God's will. In this sisterhood, it is important that we have strong officers who will protect the good of the order by guiding and gently leading others into service.

The medallion ceremony today represents the changing of the guard. The passing down of a medallion represents mentorship, shared responsibility, and the willingness to embrace change. It also represents continued support, enduring friendship, and the passing of the torch.

The Medallions of the State Officers is silver on a Purple Ribbon. The color purple symbolizes the willingness of the officers to make sacrifices through service.

- The Treasurer's medallion has crossed keys that is symbolic of her complete authority over funds and of being particularly responsible for their safekeeping. State Treasurer Jo MacWilliam will now pass her medallion and give her promise of support to the State Treasurer Elect.
- The Secretary's medallion has crossed keys and quill. The key has always been associated with an office concerned with money and its safekeeping. The quill is the symbol of a scribe - a record keeper - one who writes letters, documents, etc. State Secretary Karen Stevens will now pass her medallion and give her promise of support to the State Secretary Elect.
- The Second Vice Regent's medallion has crossed spears which designates her as the third in command in her state. Second Vice State Regent Diana Oddo will pass her medallion and give her promise of support to the Second Vice State Regent Elect.
- The First Vice Regent's medallion has a crown, which designates her as the second in command in her state. And now, First Vice State Regent Debbie Del Corro El-Chayeb will pass her medallion and give her promise of support to the First Vice State Regent Elect.
- The Regent's medallion has the crossed gavels symbolizes her status as leader of her state. At this time, State Regent Brenda Spizzo will pass her medallion and give her promise of support to the State Regent Elect.

Now, I invite the membership to offer their thanks and show their appreciation to those who have given so much and who will continue to give of themselves to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas North Carolina State Court.

## Robes are gone.....Now what?

- Give the last board member to wear it first choice to have it buried with them (folded along side them or wearing it). They could get to choose as the last board member.
- Make Rosary bags out of them
- Use as a liner for boxes for wine and donate at Catholic Daughter Conventions
- To line your casket
- I liked the ideas of altar cloths or rosary bags
- Make flags or banners
- Baby gowns for baptism from the white gowns
- Make something CDA with the purple gowns
- Make medallion bags
- Table runners for CDA occasions
- Frame them as mementos
- Put them on display if you have space
- Use to make linings for small coffins for families who have miscarried
- Make a banner for the officer table at Court meetings: Regent emblem in front of the Regent and etc.
- Make into a “throw quilt 54x70 or whatever size then sell at the next convention
- Our court values tradition and memories, so we want to keep ours to make keepsake
- boxes to display in our CDA room.
- Make funeral pall.
- Donate Material to Textile Company – All symbols on the sleeves must be removed before sending. Robe Gifting International  
c/o Mark McMullen  
4314 Prince Hall Blvd.  
Orlando, Florida 32811

Remember that you can't give the robes to a church/choir, or similar group because of the copyright logo on the sleeve. So, they also can't be given to a Thrift Store such as St. Vincent DePaul or Good Will



Used with permission of Crytal Montoya, NM State Regent



# Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date

**Submitted by Essie Walker**

Ladies, have you heard the great news? All roads lead to Coralville Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center, 300 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Coralville, Iowa, July 22-26, 2026.

This is an official invitation requesting your presence to attend the 61<sup>st</sup> Biennial National Convention. Your attendance will give us an opportunity to pray together, celebrate, and conduct business.

Do not miss the opportunity to fellowship with the CDA sisters from the great state of Iowa. State Regent Brenda Vore, Immediate Past State Regent Suzanne Torrey and all members of the state of Iowa are anxiously awaiting your arrival in 2026.

There will be activities and sites for all to enjoy and visit. Let us share a few.

- Amana Colonies Tour: Visit the seven villages of Amana Colonies, built and settled by German immigrants.
- Kalona Tour: This community has a rich cultural heritage. The Amish remains an important part of the Kalona community. The Amish arrived when Iowa gained statehood. Kalona is now better known as the “Quilt Capitol of Iowa” boasting a plethora of stores dedicated to preserving the art of quilt making. There is also locally owned antique and craft shop in the same area. Located fifteen miles south of Iowa city.
- Johnson County Agritourism offers three small local farms. Cedar Ridge Distillery, Walker Homestead and Wilson’s Orchard and Farm. Visitors are encouraged to visit and experience a variety of offerings.

There are several Local Museum’s

- Stanley Museum: Located downtown Iowa City and is home of the famous “Mural by Jackson Pollock
- Old Capitol Museum and Natural History Museum.
- Antique Car Museum
- Johnson County Historical Society Museum
- Visit old town Coralville – School House plus the Town Hall/Historical Society

Let us not forget the beautiful parishes located in Iowa City and Coralville

- St. Thomas Moore - Coralville
- St. Mary’s - Iowa City
- St. Patrick’s - Iowa City
- Newman Catholic Student Center - Iowa City
- St. Wenceslaus - Iowa City

Stay tuned for more Convention information in the next Quarterly.

*Tours taken from “Think Iowa City.” A Collection of Curious Communities*



# A Win a Weekend at the Grand 'Ole Lady



## Girl's Trip to CDA National Headquarters For up to 5 guests

### Includes:

- 4 Days and 3 Nights Stay at the Grand Old Lady (Dorm Style) in NYC
- A Broadway ticket for each guest (up to \$200.00 each)
- A Travel Voucher for each guest (Up to \$500.00 each)

### Purchase entry by December 31, 2025

Recipient will be drawn at the March for Life in DC on January 23, 2026. Participation is limited to 1000 entries.

**Please Mail \$50 donation\* per entry made payable to Catholic Daughters of the Americas to:**

**Karin Dudash**

**1705 Tyler St.**

**Altus, OK 73521**

**Download tickets at [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)**

### Stipulations:

1. Only ladies or girls (12 and older) are eligible to stay.
2. Guests must arrive on a Thursday and leave on a Sunday.
3. Date of Trip will be agreed upon by the National Regent and the winner.
4. Trip must be taken by June 1, 2026.

\*No donation is required for entry into drawings, but any gift you make to support our ministries will be greatly accepted and will help to make the drawing a success.



## **GIRL'S TRIP TO THE GRAND OLD LADY NEW YORK CITY ENTRY FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Name**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip Code**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone**

**Please send \$50 donation\* per entry made  
payable to:  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
and mail to:**

**Karin Dudash  
1705 Tyler St.  
Altus, OK 73521**

**Please provide all information requested.  
Please NO CASH; Checks/Money Orders  
only  
Thank you and Good Luck!**

\*No donation is required for entry into drawing, but any gift  
you make to support our ministries will be greatly accepted  
and will help make the drawing a success.



## **GIRL'S TRIP TO THE GRAND OLD LADY NEW YORK CITY ENTRY FORM**

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and will help make the drawing a success.

# JCDA 100-Year Anniversary: JCDA Sunday, National Biennial JCDA Retreat & Youth Scholarship Deadlines

Important Reminders for All JCDA Courts and Members

## Celebrating a Century: JCDA 100-Year Anniversary

Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas “JCDA” proudly marks its 100th anniversary next year. To honor a century of prayer, developing faith, and organizing charity projects while enjoying fellowship with other young Catholic girls remains the focus of JCDA. **The Motto** – *Be Useful* and the goals of *Love God, Serve Others and Live Nobly* along with The Threefold Program of Involvement on *Message, Service and Community* is at the heart of each court. All members, families, and friends are invited to participate in special JCDA Sunday Celebrations. JCDA Sunday is scheduled on February 22, 2026, commemorating the centennial of the first appointed JCDA Chairman/National Director's initiative that inspired Catholic Daughters courts to establish a group for young women in 1926. The JCDA Proclamations are available on the National website at [catholicdaughters.org](http://catholicdaughters.org), in both English and Spanish.

## National JCDA Biennial *#Loveyourselfie* Retreat – Save the Date

- Dates: June 9 through June 12, 2026
- Place: Camp Karol of Saint Charles Retreat Center (website: [campkarol.org](http://campkarol.org))
- Location: Lake Charles, Louisiana
- Featured Activities: Pilgrimage to the gravesite of Blessed Charlene Richard, “the little Cajun Saint” and a field trip to Lazy Gator Water Park. The retreat will also include a variety of faith-oriented and engaging events.
- Look for more information to come!

## National Youth & JCDA Scholarships Deadlines Reminder

We encourage all eligible students to apply for the 8<sup>th</sup> grader entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade to a Catholic High School and JCDA Scholarships. These scholarships are designed to support academic excellence and community involvement. Please note the following important deadlines:

- Application Submission Deadline April 1, 2026
- Required Essay, Activities, Letters of Character References due 04/1/2026
- Announcement of Recipients will be held in July 2026 during CDA National Biennial Convention.
- Theme: *“As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more.”* Psalm 71:14

Current scholarship applications and eligibility requirements are located on the Catholic Daughters of the Americas website at [catholicdaughters.org](http://catholicdaughters.org).

## Final Reminder

Join us as we celebrate 100 years of JCDA and support the next generation of leaders. Mark your calendars for JCDA Sunday Celebrations and ensure your scholarship applications are submitted on time. Be on the lookout for further details on the National Biennial JCDA Retreat. We look forward to seeing you there!

Yvette Griego  
National Director &  
National JCDA Chairman

# Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas National JCDA Day Proclamation 2026

**Whereas**, on February 22, 1926, a religious, faith-based program was created for Catholic girls to practice the Catholic faith and live a life of service and charitable works, and

**Whereas**, membership in the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas program is composed of Catholic girls from 6 years of age to 18 years of age, and

**Whereas**, the Junior Catholic of the Americas motto is “Be Useful” and its standard is to “Love God, Serve Others and Live Nobly,” and

**Whereas**, the activities of the Junior Catholic Daughters provide leadership skills for a lifelong journey in leading others to do God’s work with their hands; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, each Junior Catholic Daughter member will pursue meaningful deeds to fulfill the Junior Catholic Daughter program, and be it further

**Resolved**, that Sunday, February 22, 2026, be observed as the One Hundredth Anniversary of the National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day.

Presented Sunday, February 22, 2026

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_





# **LAS HIJAS CATÓLICAS DE LAS AMÉRICAS PROCLAMA JHCA 2026**

## **Día Nacional de las Cortes Juveniles**

- Mientras que,** El 22 de febrero de 1926, fue creado un programa religioso para que las jóvenes católicas practicasen su fe, viviendo una vida de servicio y obras caritativas y
- Mientras que,** la membresía de la Corte Juvenil de las Hijas Católicas de las Américas se compone de un programa para niñas de 6 a 18 años de edad.
- Mientras que,** El lema de la Corte Juvenil de las Hijas Católicas de las Américas es ser una persona útil, amar a Dios, servir a otros y vivir noblemente y
- Mientras que,** Las actividades de la Corte Juvenil les desarrollan destrezas para una jornada de toda la vida de guiar a otros, a hacer las obras de Dios con sus manos, por eso, sea.
- Resuelto,** Cada miembro de la Corte Juvenil perseguirá obras significativas para cumplir con el programa de las Hijas Católicas de las Américas y más.
- Resuelto** que el Domingo, 22 de febrero de 2026 sea observado como el aniversario de cien años de las Cortes Juveniles de las Hijas Católicas de las Américas.

Presentado el domingo, 16 de febrero del 2026.

Firma: \_\_\_\_\_



**JCDA Turns 100!**

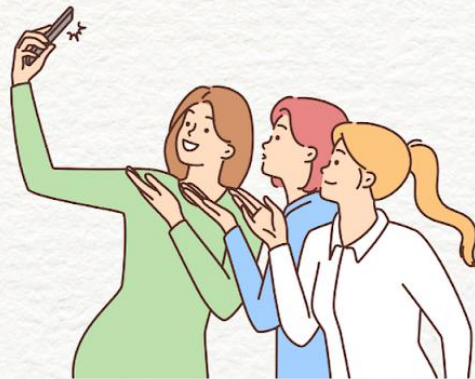
**Save the  
Date**

**June 9 – 12, 2026**

**LOVE YOUR #SELFIE  
RETREAT**

To be held in  
Lake Charles, Louisiana

More  
Information  
to follow.





## A Secret Way to teach about the Faith: The Twelve Days of Christmas



*(Prior to beginning the prayer service, each woman present selects the day of Christmas she wants to lead. If there are more than twelve women, the ladies who chose Day 1 should get together, the ladies who chose Day 2 should get together, and so on. There should be twelve groups.)*

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: As we celebrate the Advent Season, we grow closer to Jesus in the Manger. Tonight, we are going to take a moment to learn the meaning behind the Twelve days of Christmas. Many people today believe that the first day of Christmas starts on December twelfth or thirteenth. But in fact, the first day of Christmas is December 25th and the final day is January 5th. Thus, for hundreds of years the Christmas holidays didn't begin until Christmas Eve and didn't end until Epiphany.

Leader: Did you know that during the sixteenth-century religious wars in England, Catholics often practiced their faith in secret. Legend says they found creative ways to instruct their children, such as using "The 12 Days of Christmas" song, which is thought to contain hidden references to Catholic beliefs.

Leader: As we come to each day in the song, would those who selected that day please sing the first line and then read the message under it.

### Day 1: Partridge in a Pear Tree – Jesus Christ

A partridge is a bird that is known to sacrifice its life for its babies. This bird represents Jesus, who is willing to give his life for us. The pear tree symbolizes the Cross.

### Day 2: Two Turtle Doves – Old and New Testament

Turtle doves often mate for life, making them symbols of love and fidelity. In "The Twelve Days of Christmas," two turtle doves represent the Old and New Testament.

### Day 3: Three French Hens

The three French hens signify the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and love (or charity).

### Day 4: Four Calling Birds

The four calling birds represent the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—which share the teachings and life of Jesus.

### Day 5: Five Golden Rings

The five golden rings represent the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Pentateuch or the Torah. These books include Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

### Day 6: Six Geese a Laying

The six geese a-laying symbolize the six days of creation, emphasizing God's power as the creator of the world.



### Day 7: Seven Swans a Swimming

The seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

### Day 8: Eight Maids a Milking

The eight maids a-milking symbolizes the eight Beatitudes preached by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

### Day 9: Nine Ladies Dancing

The nine ladies dancing represents the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

### Day 10: Ten Lords a Leaping

The ten lords a-leaping signifies the Ten Commandments.

### Day 11: Eleven Pipers Piping

The eleven pipers piping represent the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the Younger, Simon, and Jude.

### Day 12: Ten Drummers Drumming

The twelve drummers drumming represent the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed, which summarizes the core beliefs of Christianity.

Leader: Let us pray: This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart. Fill me with Your presence from the very start. As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven. The first Christmas gift was the greatest gift ever. You came as a baby born in a manger. Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth, when He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth. Immanuel, God with us, your presence came that night. And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light." "Do not be afraid," they said to shepherds in the field. Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield. Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call. Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all. Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice. Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise. Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush. In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush. This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart. Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part. Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day. Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



# 1903

*Brenda Anderson, 1903 Chrm  
National Secretary-Treasurer*

Home is where the heart is, and our National Office at 10 West 71st Street in New York City is Home. Home for about 100 years. When we were first organized in 1903, we did not own the building we now have. Homes are safe, secure, and feel comfortable. But like all homes, sometimes things wear out, need replacing and need a facelift. Also, some homes come with HOAs, and although we do not have a HOA in NYC, we do have stringent City and State Laws in New York. And we must comply with those. This can be frustrating and hard to understand, but we as an Order are obeying the law and doing what we can.

If you were at the Officers Conference in Arizona in July, you saw my slide presentation all about our Home. Thank you for being attentive and understanding more about it. There are solutions to all situations, and we are fortunate to be able to manage all that has come up thus far. We should thank the Past National Regent for her insight and dedication to getting the Grand Old Lady out of her slump. With fundraising efforts and your contributions, we have made amazing progress. Thank You Helene Shepard for all your enthusiasm and dedication to preserving our Home.

And now for special News! THANK You to the State of California for your fabulous donation of \$5000 presented to National Regent, Susan Moné the following morning after my presentation. Wow! And – yes, there is more; to the State of Arizona, thank you for your check in the amount of \$1903. These funds are appreciated. I did hear whispers from a state or two who were thinking of pledges as well.

Each of you, every member can help with supporting the 1903 Society. We currently have a trip to the Grand Old Lady planned. Yes, for a \*\$50 donation, your name will be entered into a drawing for a trip to NYC. Please share the flyer with all your members and download all the tickets you and your friends would like. The winners do not need to be Catholic, but must be a lady, and it would be nice to have at least CDA member as part of the winning group. Deadline for buying tickets is Dec. 31\* so please do not delay. If several of you want to go together and purchase a ticket, that is ok too. Read the flyer, follow the directions, and encourage all your members to ask their friends and family to consider a donation as well.

The Grand Old Lady is our Home and taking care of her the best we can is just the right thing to do at this time. Thank you to each of you who have EVER donated in your name or as a memorial. Until next time, be safe and share your love for CDA. ~Brenda

\*\$50 donation is not required to be entered in the drawing but is deeply appreciated.

## **Come Walk with Us!**

Join your Catholic Daughter sisters from around the USA for the annual March for Life in Washington DC

*"Stand Up for Human Life"*

### **Mass for Life - Thursday January 22, 2026**

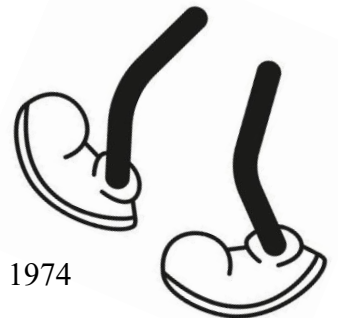
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception  
Bus leaves the hotel at 10:30 a.m.

### **March for Life – Friday January 23, 2026**

Pre - march activities at the National Mall

Hampton Inn Hotel Downtown DC  
901 6 th Street NW,  
Washington DC 20001  
202-349-2265

Reservations in CDA block \$181.00 per night



Catholic Daughters have attended the March for Life every year since January 22, 1974  
We will continue until Abortion is unheard of!

## **\$ Opportunities for Our Youth**

Would \$100, \$1,000, or \$2,500 interest youth in your parish? Catholic Daughters has two programs that offer financial benefits to young people. All we need to do is support these opportunities.

The first one is the annual CDA National Education Contest. Both Catholic and non-Catholic children can enter to win monetary awards at the local, state, and national levels. Our role is to share contest information with all local young people. Catholic Daughters should distribute application forms and, if allowed, give direct instructions in parish RE classes and local schools. They can explain the contest theme and describe its six categories. The entries can be essays, poems, music, art, photography, or computer art. The success of the contest depends on the entries being distributed.

Our help should not stop there. We must check with students regularly. Children need encouragement and positive feedback. The Education Contest encourages creativity and independent thinking. Participants compete for recognition and monetary prizes. We should promote this endeavor.

Our youth can also take advantage of the scholarships that the Catholic Daughters offer. This grant or payment is made to support a student's education. It can be awarded based on academic achievement, financial need, or some specific performance requirement. CDA offers four such awards. For the first two listed below, entrants must provide a 300-word essay on a selected Bible verse. The second two scholarships require the candidates to explain their reasons for applying.

1. The JCDA Scholarship of \$1000.00 is awarded to a JCDA member entering College in the Fall. The winner must be enrolled as a college freshman. She must have been a member of JCDA for the two years preceding the submission.
2. For students entering the 9th grade at a Catholic High School, two \$1000.00 scholarships are offered by the National Court. The winners must be Catholic and can be female or male.
3. The National Board presents an annual \$2000.00 scholarship to a member of a CDA Campus Court. This award provides tuition assistance for the winner as she continues her studies at a college or university.
4. The Leonard Bachman Graduate Scholarships are awarded to individuals who have completed undergraduate studies and want assistance with tuition for graduate school. These scholarships provide \$2500.00 to three worthy candidates.

To ensure our young people can benefit, actively share details about the Education Contest and Scholarship Program with parents, students, and community leaders. Encourage eligible youth to apply and offer guidance throughout the process. Students cannot win if they do not apply, and they cannot apply if they are unaware of the programs. It is our responsibility to promote the Education Contest and Scholarship Program by informing and motivating potential applicants.

**Please reach out to all potential recipients about the monetary awards. Speak with parish families, teachers, and youth groups to ensure they are aware of these opportunities. Support our youth by giving them the information and encouragement they need to apply, as they are our hope for the future.**

Further information can be found on the National website:

<https://catholicdaughters.org/2024-contests>  
<https://catholicdaughters.org/2025-scholarships>

*Karin Dudash*  
*National Director*

## **Bylaw Amendments**

The 2026 National Convention in Coralville, Iowa, is less than a year away! One of the most important parts of the Business Session—aside from electing new leadership—is the consideration of proposed bylaw changes.

At convention, members will first hear the original bylaw, followed by the proposed change. The voting body will then discuss, possibly amend, and finally vote on the proposal. These decisions matter because bylaws are the written rules that govern how we conduct business. They provide the framework for keeping our organization strong, faithful, and united.

If you have never read our National Bylaws cover to cover, I encourage you to do so—you will be surprised at what you learn! The bylaws outline our incorporation, purpose, mission, process for amendments, different classes of membership, and more. They are the backbone of how we serve and operate.

Below is **Article XXI – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

### **Sec. 1. PROCEDURE FOR AMENDING THE BYLAWS**

The National Committee on Bylaws shall receive and review all proposed changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws may be amended at any Biennial National Convention by a two-third (2/3) vote of the National Court present, provided written notice has been submitted to the Local, Campus, and State Courts three (3) months prior to Convention.

### **Sec. 2. EMERGENCY AMENDMENT**

An emergency amendment may be proposed without prior notice at a Biennial National Convention provided it has been previously approved by the National Committee on Bylaws by a three-fourth (3/4) vote of the full membership of the committee. The Bylaws may be amended by such an amendment only if approved at any Biennial National Convention by three-fourth (3/4) of the National Court present.

Amendment changes can be submitted by: Campus Court, Local Court, State Board, State Court, National Board, or the National Bylaw Committee. Approved amendments must be signed by the **State Regent and State Secretary** or by **Local Regent and Recording Secretary**. Local courts need to send a copy of the amendments proposed with the rationale to the State Regent. An example of how to write a Bylaw can be found in the Tools of the Trade, Section 4, page 62, Attachment 23.

**All proposed Bylaw Amendments must be postmarked by January 15, 2026. Five (5) copies of each amendment proposal are to be sent to the Bylaws Chair with one amendment per page. Send proposed changes to: Brenda Anderson, Bylaws Chair, 265 Augusta Circle, Dakota Dunes, SD 57049, 605-380-1514**

We hope this impresses on you the importance that your voice and your vote have for our future Catholic Daughters. If you have any questions reach out to your local Regent, District Deputy, State Board, or National Bylaws Chair, Brenda Anderson.

*Susan Killian, National Director*  
*2024-26 Bylaw Committee Member*



## Catholic Daughters of the Americas CDA Membership in Action CDA Membership Drive Contest



### What are we doing and Why?

~ We will hold a Quarterly Membership Drive Contest to increase Local Court Membership

### When?

- ~ April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.
- ~ July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025
- ~ October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

**Prizes will be awarded to the top three Local Courts with the most increased members. \*\*In the event of a tie, a drawing will take place\*\***

- ~ First Place Prize - \$100.00
- ~ Second Place Prize - \$75.00
- ~ Third Place Prize - \$50.00

**Let us see your Court on the Winner's List!**

# Operation Morning Star

encourages Catholic women to speak out and become active in legislative issues at the local, state, and national levels.

## National CDA Legislative Quarterly ~ Fall 2025

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**Sisters of Life launch new website to support pregnant women** ~ The Sisters of Life, Catholic women religious devoted to protecting life and serving those impacted by abortion, have launched a new website aimed at helping pregnant and post- abortive women find resources and support. The website offers women the opportunity to speak about their pregnancy situation, a prenatal diagnosis, or a past abortion to a compassionate listener. The website VisCenter.org connects pregnant women in need with services and resources that can help. The site's name, "Vis," means force or power. "As women, we know that real power is unleashed when you feel listened to" the website states. Go to sistersoflife.org for info on the Sisters of Life, or check out VisCenter.org to see what is offered on their new website to help pregnant and post-abortive women.

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**Human Coalition:** The abortion industry doesn't want you to know this, but according to the pro- abortion Guttmacher Institute (a division of Planned Parenthood), over half of all abortions in the U.S. are done with pills. At the 9/3/25 Senate hearing with RFK, Jr., both Senator Daines (R-MT) and Senator Lankford (R-OK) asked questions on the abortion drug mifepristone. Marjorie Dannenfelser of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America responded: "We thank pro-life leaders Senators Lankford and Daines for prioritizing women's safety during the hearing. Senator Daines called out the Biden admin's illegal mail-order move during COVID-19, and Senator Lankford pressed for an update on the FDA's review...Disturbing reports that abortion drugs are fueling abuse nationwide are growing—including cases where health care professionals prescribe them off-label to men who then use them against women's will and without their knowledge. We look forward to hearing the Update on restoring the in-person dispensing of mifepristone." (SBA) \

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**Abortionists Could be Sued for \$100,000 for Every Illegal Abortion Pill They Sell** ~ Sept. 5, 2025 ~ LifeNews.com ~ Texas lawmakers passed a bill Wednesday allowing private citizens to sue abortion pill manufacturers, doctors, and anyone who mails the abortion drug into the State. Texas Senate voted in favor of HB 7, the "Woman and Child Protection Act," which cleared the House, and is now waiting to be signed by Texas Gov. Abbott, would add another layer to the State's abortion restrictions, including limits on medication abortions, which account for nearly two thirds of abortions performed each year. Texas law prohibits physicians or medical suppliers from providing any abortion-inducing drugs by delivery or mail service. If HB 7 is signed into law, private citizens could sue and receive up to \$100,000 in cases of successful lawsuits. Women who take the abortion pills cannot be sued under the bill. A study of insurance data by the Ethics and Public Policy Center found that nearly 11% of women suffered a "serious adverse event" after taking the abortion pill—including hemorrhage, sepsis, fallopian tube rupture or infection—compared to the summary figure of "less than 0.5%" reported on the drug's label.

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**Alliance Defending Freedom warns Congress: EU Law Threatens Free Speech in USA** ~ The Digital Services Act, a European online censorship law, poses a major threat to Americans' free speech. Learn more at adflegal.org.

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**I recently found this article on OSVnews.com and thought it was a good reminder about what I/we see and read on the internet, and what I/we repost: Vatican Warns About Fake Pope Quotes, Videos:**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** ~ All the speeches and messages Pope Leo XIV has given since becoming pope May 8 are available on the Vatican website, which should be checked before sharing supposed quotes and videos, Vatican News said after a 36-minute “deep fake” AI generated video was posted on YouTube. The video is only the latest example of social media fakes attributed to the new pope. A popular meme circulating on Facebook, Instagram and other social media features a photo of Pope Leo from May 8 and the fake quote: “You cannot follow both Christ and the cruelty of kings. A leader who mocks the weak, exalts himself, and preys on the innocent is not sent by God. He is sent to test you. And many are failing.” There is no evidence anywhere that the Pope said it, according to snopes.com, the fact- checking website. The Vatican website [www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) offers papal texts, including texts of video messages, in multiple languages.

*Kathleen Grange  
National Legislative Chairman*

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## **Catholic Daughters University!**

I would like to believe that Catholic Daughters is for every generation from our grandmothers to our mothers there is something for everyone.

We begin with youth and graduate to the adult courts. As a college student, what better way to stay active and connect with their faith and charitable giving. For example the Campus Court Our Lady of Grace, #2591, at Briar Cliff University in Sioux City IA...sewed bibs....the Campus Court, St Therese of Lisieux, #2711, at Iowa State University IA made blankets and May baskets; the Campus Court, Our Lady of Wisdom, #2799 at the University of South Dakota at Brookings SD made blankets in conjunction with the beds the Knights of Columbus council on campus built. The blankets and beds were all donated to the Pine Ridge reservation.

This is us, this is what we do. We feed the hungry, cloth the naked, provide shelter. These young ladies are in their first year of college and away from home but still make a difference. They may be missing back home but have formed a bond as a court with a sisterhood of faith and thrive.

We should be proud of our Campus Courts and support them whenever we can. If you are in a city with a Newman Center, University or College we believe they would benefit from having a Campus Court. We are here to help! Please email me or the National Office, we have all the materials needed to Institute a Campus Court will all the steps along the way to commencement. Remember, they are our future in Catholic Daughters.

The National Court has Campus Court Scholarships that help these young women succeed. With your support we provide a \$2,000.00 scholarship to a Campus Court member. The advisors are continually active in their campus courts and are making certain the members are filling out scholarship applications and assisting in helping them provide all the paperwork involved in the application process. The key is to be as organized and efficient as possible to apply by the given deadline. Much like any scholarship or contest the deadlines are critical, we have had members miss out due to missing deadlines and/or not submitting all the requirements, please don't let this happen!

*Christmas Blessings,  
Rita Carlson  
National Director*





