

# SHARE

FALL  
2025



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

*Falling in Love with the Lord*





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*Labouré is honored to be designated as a national project of the CDA.*

# *The Gift Of Mary And Her Fiat*

**A**s our preparations for Christmas build up, I invite you to ponder the gift of Mary and to thank the Lord for this precious gift!

Our Blessed Mother exhibited deep faith, her perfect love for neighbors, her charity, and her humility. Like her, we are called to hasten in assisting the needy and serve them with a joyful spirit as an expression of our gratitude for God's many blessings. Through the many apostolates and outreach initiatives of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, may we fill our days with the presence of Jesus Christ so that we, too, can draw others to Him as Mary did. Let us always have recourse to her ... for she is the channel through which God delights to impart to us His graces!

Each of us can say, "Yes," to God. Each of us can respond with our entire being, with a fiat of surrendered love. When we do so, our positive response marks the beginning of a participation in the very life of the Triune God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We become daughters and sons of the Most High and enter into the life of the living God. In Him, we find our deepest identity, our real selves, through our participation in the One who made us, who redeems us, and who transforms us by His continual grace.

It may be good to ask ourselves today: How often have we asked, "How can this be" in response to promptings we have received? The greatest fiat the humankind has ever heard and known must be for us today an unmistakable reminder that, like



Father John Erick Villa  
National Chaplain

Mary, we must also say, "Yes," to whatever God asks of us, knowing and trusting He will give us whatever assistance is necessary to fulfill His request.

Today more than ever, we must trust in Mary, and boldly declare our own fiat, our own surrender, our own, "Yes." Remember: God cannot not use us if our answer is, "No." This speaks of how God respects humankind's freedom.

God, in all His splendor and glory, respects humankind's freedom to choose his own path. He wanted humankind, like Mary, to become active in the salvation of the world. God asked, and Mary said, "Yes," and the world was never the same again. How sweet to think about and comprehend God giving us this importance despite our sinfulness!

Looking to Mary's fiat, her complete surrender to God and His will for her, inspires us to keep moving forward, to keep pushing on when we feel discouraged, and to get up again when we fall. We must find confidence in the truth that God is with us, He is Emmanuel. He wants our "Yes," and waits for us to say to Him "May it be done to me according to Thy word." We are free to say this from the heart, or to turn away from Him. We have that choice.

May we choose to surrender and say yes, because when we do, God's help is near and will enable us to live out our "Yes." It may not always be easy, especially in times of distress, yet we can consecrate ourselves to Mary and have faith in God.



# SHARE

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Fall 2025  
Volume 55 | Number 4

## National Chaplain

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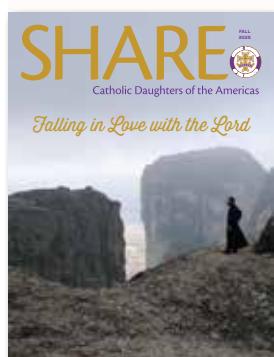
Brenda West, Virginia

## About the Cover

### Falling in Love with the Lord – in Greece

We experienced, along with Father Erick, God's presence in the places where Saint Paul walked and preached. Being there makes Scripture come alive and deepens our closeness to the Lord in a simple, powerful way. In Greece, faith becomes tangible – every step, every site, every moment whispering the Lord's love and drawing our hearts closer to Him.

Thanks to Past National Regent  
Helene Shepard



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"Here I Am, Lord ~ Lead the Way."  
Leadership

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## Editorial Offices:

Share Magazine  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
10 West 71st Street  
New York, NY 10023  
(212) 877-3041



Advertising Sales  
Representative:  
Tom Panas  
(212) 877-3041  
Email:  
cdashare@aol.com

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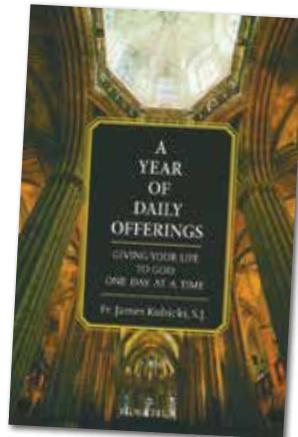
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Submission of materials for publication in Share: All articles, stories and items must be submitted electronically via email to Tom Panas at the following email address: cdashare@aol.com. They should be submitted in a Word document attached to your email or within the body of your email. Photos must be sent in JPEG format as attachments to your email. NO HARD COPY PHOTOS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Be sure to identify individuals in photo, "from left to right." Deadlines for final emailing of your stories for publication in SHARE Magazine's Court News section are: Winter 2025-2026 - December 15, 2026; Spring 2026 - March 15, 2026; Summer 2026 - June 15, 2026; Fall 2026 - September 15, 2026. 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 approximately 60,000 members in 1250 courts in the United States, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

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## NATIONAL REGENT'S MESSAGE

**A**s I meditate on our theme for this Share issue, "Falling in Love with the Lord," I think of myself as a cradle Catholic who grew up my whole life with the teachings of the true presence in the Eucharist and ponder on how I have taken it for granted. My father was a convert to the Catholic faith and was a wonderful example of a Catholic since he chose, cherished, and truly lived his Catholic faith. I

can't say that there weren't times in my life when I had doubts and prayed for help to believe. I think of Mother Teresa and how she secretly doubted the existence of God for 50 years, but it never stopped her from her work with the poor, and she's a Saint! The book *Come be my Light*, written from private letters found after her death, reveals the "spiritual darkness" she suffered. What an example for us to look up to in loving the Lord. Maybe one day we will become saints!

In August, I attended the NCCW (National Council of Catholic women) Convention at which one day was set aside for a retreat. During the retreat, one of the speakers asked us to ponder the question, "when in your life did you realize the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?" There were several times I thought of, but one of those times was during the early days of Covid when we watched Mass on my computer for months, but something was missing. When we were finally able to return to church under strict conditions, when I received the Eucharist that first time I cried. I knew what was missing! I knew that I was receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. When did you realize it?

I start every day falling deeper in love with the Lord knowing He is always there for me and has given His life for me. He helps me to replace fear with faith and loves me unconditionally. He becomes my Beacon of Hope and my Light in the Darkness. Recently Pope Leo XIV raised to Sainthood Carlos Acutis, the saint in tennis shoes. His devotion is such a strong witness for all of us. He spent his short life researching the



Susan Moné  
National Regent

Eucharistic Miracles that affirm the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. St. Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

In August, I also had the blessing of attending the Texas JCDA State Convention. I was in awe of these beautiful young girls from the little Juniolettes to the Juniors who conducted the convention with such poise and spirit. The Masses and spirituality showed reverence and love for

the Lord. They had a wonderful mix of business, spirituality, and fun with lots of music, dancing and laughing with such joy. To explain who I was as the National Regent, I was endearingly introduced as the CDA "Top Dog!"

As you are reading this, Christmas is around the next corner. I encourage you to take time during Advent to spend quiet time with the Lord talking to Him and listening to Him as you would with your best friend. Take your worries, fears, and problems to Him. On Christmas, we welcome Him as a tiny baby, but also as our Redeemer. My prayer for all of you is for you to present a Birthday gift of your love for Him.

Then, as the New Year arrives, it is time to start planning our 61st Biennial National Convention. We begin with the First Call to Convention which is in the mail with important information for the convention. Our CDA sisters in Iowa are very excited and working hard to host the convention. I hope to see many of you in Coralville, Iowa, in July to share the benefits of their hard work and enjoy the excitement of being together.

I enjoy reading the many newsletters that I receive from states and local courts of the many functions and events that are being done as you serve the Lord as His hands and feet to so many people and in so many ways across the country. You are giving so much to those in need but the most important thing, I think, is that you give them hope. You are a blessing to all you serve. Keep up the wonderful work that shows Jesus in action to those who may not know Him. You are a blessing to me, and I am so proud to be your Catholic Daughter sister.



# "My Spirit Will Live On"

## Illuminated Tabletop Tree

It  
Lights  
Up!

Over a  
foot tall!

























































































































































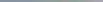
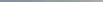




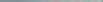
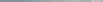
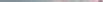


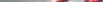




















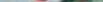


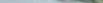
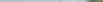
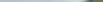
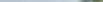
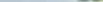
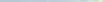
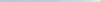


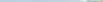


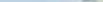
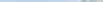
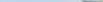
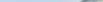
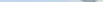


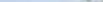
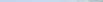
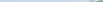
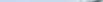
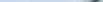
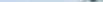
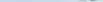
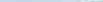
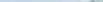
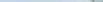
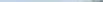
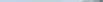
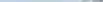
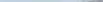
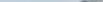
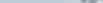
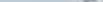
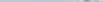
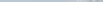
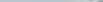
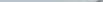
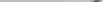
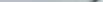


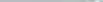
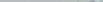
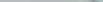
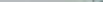
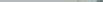
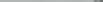
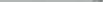
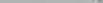
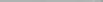
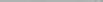
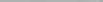
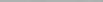
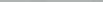



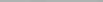
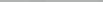
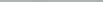
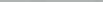









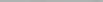
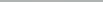
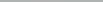


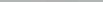














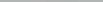
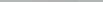
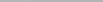
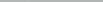
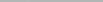


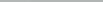
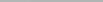
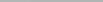
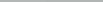
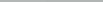
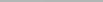
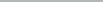


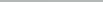
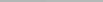
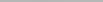
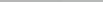
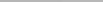


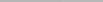




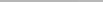






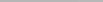
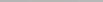























## A GLANCE AT

# Victory Junction



Essie Walker  
National Regent-Elect  
National Membership/  
Court Development Chairman

Let us take a moment to get acquainted with our newest National Charity, Victory Junction.

The idea of building a camp for children with chronic illnesses and medical conditions arrived from Adam Petty, a young and upcoming race car driver. Adam was the son of Kyle Petty and the grandson of the well-known race car driver, Richard Petty. While racing around the county, Adam would always take the time to visit children in the hospital. His vision was to build a camp that would allow kids to do what they do best, and that is to be kids. He shared with his parents his desire to do so. However, at the age of nineteen, tragedy struck, and Adam was killed while racing. Adam died May 12, 2000. It was such a loss, not only for the Petty family but also for the racing community.

His parents, grandfather, and the racing community knew that Adam's vision was to build a camp where kids could be kids, make friends, play, imagine, and just enjoy the experience of camp life. Today, Adam's car #45 sits high on the grounds of Victory Junction located on eighty-four acres of land in the hills of Randleman, North Carolina.

Victory Junction is a year-round camp that enriches the lives of children with serious illness and chronic medical conditions by providing life-changing camp experiences that are exciting, fun, and empowering, all in a medically safe environment, and always at no cost to the camper or

their families.

Since opening in 2004, Victory Junction has proudly delivered over 139,000 experiences to children and families from all fifty states and four countries, including Canada, Denmark, England, and Switzerland.

### Impacted Highlights – (as of 12-31-2024)

- 85,534 Outreach Experiences
- 19,040 Family Weekend Experiences
- 1,579 Day Program Experiences
- 3,012 Partner Program Experiences
- 30,603 Summer Camp Experiences
- 33,669 Volunteers contribute 917,122 volunteer hours

These numbers represent more than just data; they tell the story of Hope, Healing, and Joy for children and families during immense medical challenges. Whether on site at camp or through an outreach program, Victory Junction continues to change lives.

Victory Junction programs include Spring and Fall Family Weekends, Day Programs, Partner Programs, Summer Camp and Outreach – which brings the magic of camp directly to children in hospitals. Summer Camp is available to children ages 6-16, while family weekends are primarily for campers 3-16.

When campers attend the Family Weekend Program, the entire family spends the weekend as well. All campers on this weekend are grouped with children of a like illness or



condition. Each family is assigned a volunteer who assists the family for the entire weekend. The condition or illness could be:

- Bleeding Disorders
- Physical Disabilities
- Burn Survivors
- Cancer
- Skin Disease
- Sickle Cell Disorders
- Cerebral Palsy
- Rheumatologic Disorders
- Neurological Disorders
- Lung Disease
- Diabetes
- Kidney Disease
- Gastrointestinal Disorders
- Immunologic Disorders
- Spinal Bifida
- Genetic Disorders
- Heart Disease

On the grounds is the Spiritual Center. An area for quiet reflection. Taking care of the spirit is just as important as taking care of the body.

Let us look at what else is offered to campers:

- Theater - Campers participate in performances.
- Mini Golf - Campers can get a hole-in-one.

- Amphitheatre - Campers enjoy outdoor entertainment.
- Tree House - Accessible to all campers.
- FAB Shop - Full working salon.
- Sports Center - Basketball.
- Pit Stop - Healthy Snacks.
- Fuel stop - Delicious meals are served.
- Archery - Every camper gets to shoot an arrow.
- Bowling Alley - Everyone bowls, no gutter balls.
- Arts & Crafts - Campers get creative.
- Water Park - Heated pool and is accessible to all campers.
- Body Shop - Medical Center.
- Superdome - Indoor softball and kickball.
- Adventure - Campers soar on a zipline or giant swing.
- Horseback Riding and Animal Adventure - Campers put their crutches and wheelchairs aside and ride.

When you witness the smile on a camper's face who has always been on crutches or in a wheel chair ride a horse for the first time, make a hole in one, or pet an animal, not only does it bring a smile to their face, as a volunteer, one can also join in to share their joy and excitement.

"When I see the joy and smiles this camp brings to kids and their families, I can still feel Adam's giving spirit and see his smile." Kyle Petty

*Material and Article written in conjunction with Cathy Davis, Director of Special Events for Victory Junction.* 



## From a Modest Ironing Board Altar

# *to St. Peter's Basilica*



Connie Dronette  
First Vice National Regent  
National Spiritual  
Enhancement Chairman

**O**n May 7, 2025, members of the College of Cardinals entered the Sistine Chapel to begin the process of selecting a new Pontiff. There were 133 voting cardinals, setting a record for the largest number of electors. Like many of you, I continued to switch the TV channel to the Vatican's live feed showing the smoke from the Sistine Chapel's chimney after each College of Cardinals vote. As Catholics, we know that the black smoke means that deliberations continue and that white smoke means we have a new Papa (Latin for Pope). On the second day of the conclave, white smoke appeared, indicating that a new Pope had been selected.

Shortly after the vote, Cardinal Robert Prevost became the first Pope from the United States and appeared on St. Peter's Basilica balcony as Pope Leo XIV. I felt a sense of pride upon learning that the new Holy Father was American. He was born and raised in Illinois. Upon discovering his connection to Louisiana, my enthusiasm grew. His maternal grandfather was Josh Martinez born in the Dominican Republic and his maternal grandmother was Louise Baquié, a Creole born in New Orleans, Louisiana. They were married on September 17, 1887, at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in New Orleans. Sometime between 1910 and 1920, they relocated to Chicago, Illinois.

Robert Francis Prevost was born in Chicago on September 14, 1955. He was the son of Louis, an educator, and Mildred, a librarian, and was the youngest of three sons. Robert's oldest brother, Louis, is a retired Navy veteran living in Florida. The middle brother, John, is one year older than Robert, and is a retired educator living in Illinois.

Robert became an altar boy when he was only six years old. He recalled that at the time, Mass was celebrated in Latin. He said he had to learn it to serve Mass even before he made his First Communion, one of the key sacraments in the church.

One of my favorite childhood stories of our new Pope is one that is fondly remembered by his brother John. He said his little brother knew from an incredibly early age that he wanted to be a priest. Young Robert used to pretend to celebrate Mass using their mother's ironing board as an altar and Necco candies as Communion wafers.



As a young boy, Robert attended elementary school at St. Adalbert School in his home parish, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, where he excelled in Mathematics and literature. On the weekends he would help his family haul produce to the parish's food pantry, and hand out rosaries on street corners. In 1969, he attended St. Augustine Seminary High School in Holland, Michigan, where he participated in speech and debate and served as editor-in-chief of the yearbook.

The future Pope enrolled at Villanova University, an Augustinian-affiliated institution near Philadelphia, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics in 1977. Shortly after graduating, he joined the Order of Saint Augustine as a novice and resided in St. Louis.

Robert became a friar of the Order of Saint Augustine in 1977 and was ordained as a priest in 1982. He earned a Doctor of Canon Law (JCD) degree in 1987, from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. Father Prevost served as a parish pastor, diocesan official, seminary teacher, and administrator during his extensive missionary work in Peru throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Elected prior general of the Order of Saint Augustine, Father Prevost was based in Rome from 2001 to 2013 and extensively traveled to the order's provinces around the world. He then returned to Peru as Bishop of Chiclayo from 2015 to 2023. A treaty between Peru and the Vatican required that all bishops in Peru be Peruvian citizens. To comply with the treaty, he became a naturalized citizen of the country.

In 2023, Pope Francis appointed him as prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in Rome, president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, and named him a Cardinal. He served in that office until the death of Pope Francis.

When Pope Francis died in May 2025, Cardinal Prevost was elected on the sixth ballot. He became the first Augustinian to lead the Catholic Church. He chose Leo XIV to honor both Pope Leo I (the Great) and Leo XIII, whose social encyclical championed workers' rights. His first words, "Peace be with all of you!" and his embrace of traditional papal vestments signaled continuity and hope.

CDA is proud of our new American Pope. Please pray for



# The Blessings of CDA



Brenda Anderson  
National Secretary-Treasurer  
National By-Laws Chairman

We can look at this title and each come up with a list of our blessings; the strength of our faith and the wonderful sisterhood of Catholic Daughters are most likely top the list. They are for me. However, like all things in life, there is always more to the story. Blessings to each of us come in different forms, a thought, a call, a memory, a yearning to be more. The Holy Spirit is the active participant in our lives, directing us through life's challenges, through the normal day-to-day occurrences. "Come Holy Spirit" is a small but mighty prayer. It is with this small but significant phrase that we can be ready to hear the Lord's whispers – His directions for each of us, as only God knows where He wants us to be this very day.

Are we blessed as CDA members to be with members who are in nursing homes or who are our neighbors? Will this be our call – to hold their hand while we say a Rosary or when they need us most? Is our blessing to work with other members as we work to feed the hungry or the homeless? That is a blessing to be the heart and hands for our brothers and sisters in need. Or can we share the blessings of membership with the younger moms who need the support system from those of us who have experienced the same? Being called to support a family as they struggle to make ends meet or to sit and pray with someone who has walked her walk is a gift. Is our blessing as a CDA member sharing in the sorrow of a spouse, a child, or parent who is experiencing loss? The blessings of CDA are not just what WE benefit from, but what we also give to others.

As some of you may have heard me say, "good intentions

have a partner – action." With the blessing of being a CDA member, we are genuinely called to action. Those good intentions you may have had earlier to help someone, to give spiritual, emotional or financial support, can become actions and blessings for others through your membership in Catholic Daughters. Your intentions and support for one another are our 'actional-blessings' to share our prayers and deeds with others who are on the same journey, preparing our souls for life hereafter. Helping others get to Heaven should be an action that we seek to do daily. Emotional support is what each of us needs from time to time, too. Reaching out to other CDA sisters with emotional support is a blessing to both you and her. Many do not have others for emotional support at home, but it is with this family of Catholic Daughters that we find the emotional support necessary. CDA financial support is an action and a blessing for our Projects and Charities. With each dollar given, 100% of it goes to those charities. You can make personal donations to these projects and charities if you feel that you would like to bless them with your financial support. Donations are not just limited to the courts or states. These blessings we share make a dramatic difference to what we do as an individual or collective group of Catholic Daughter members.

The blessings of CDA opens our eyes, ears, and hearts to knowing we are more than those women who meet once a month. We do make a difference, and we are blessed as members of CDA, to be given the opportunity to bless others. May each of you share in the blessings of our Catholic Daughter Order.

Blessings from me to you. 

# Falling in Love

## WITH FAMILY



Barb Wiechmann  
National Director  
National Family Chairman

**A**s we leave the Advent season, are we prepared for the celebration of the birth of our Lord? “The Reason for the Season” is Jesus. This was always a magical time as a child. There were lights to decorate with, the tree was put up, and the Christmas catalogue arrived in the mail. We could dream, create and hope. I have several memories of Christmas, but some just stand out in my mind. We went to pick gifts at the drug store that Dad and Mom owned and operated. We drew names of a sibling, waited in the storeroom, and went one by one to pick a present for the name we drew. What a joy on Christmas when your sibling opened the gift you picked for him or her.

Another memory was Midnight Mass. Sometimes, Mom and Dad invited people over for a gathering at our house after Mass. I know that most of my memories are of the people, not the gifts. People should be the lasting memory, but yes, there are some gifts I remember – my promise ring from my now husband and the chainsaw my grandson was surprised that I wanted. LOL.

But this season is about another Family. The Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They are a symbol of love and faith that we should model our family life after. Mary, who is revered for her obedience, purity, and unwavering

faith, is a hard “act” to follow. Joseph is known for his protection and quiet strength. This family had many real challenges and got through them with grace and trust in God. Jesus paid the supreme price as He died for the forgiveness of our sins.

The Holy Family showed faithfulness, obedience, and love. This matters today in our families as we need to raise our children and grandchildren with integrity and compassion. We need to live in homes that reflect peace, service to others, and spiritual depth. We need to fall in love with the Lord, and it will show through our actions.

I have spoken in past articles regarding the challenges of life with all the distractions. It takes time and dedication to develop a silent time in your life. A time for limiting the distractions and increasing prayer time. I am working on this daily. There are many resources on Catholic websites to explore building family life. Use the tools that are available to you. Make a fresh start in the new year.

St. Francis de Sales said, “Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself.”

Pope Francis wrote “Family, a place of forgiveness. There is no perfect family, we do not have perfect parents, you are not perfect yourself.” 



# Catholic Daughters of the Americas CDA Membership in Action Announcing 2026 CDA Membership Drive Contest!



## What are we doing and Why?

~ We are continuing our 2025 Membership Drive Contest into 2026 to increase Local Court Membership

## When?

- ~ Phase I February 1, 2026 through February 28, 2026
- ~ Phase II March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026
- ~ Phase III April 1, 2026 through April 30, 2026

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! (Remember: there is still a little time left for Phase III of the 2025 contest which ends on December 31!)

# *The Best Pilgrimage Ever*

Tracing the Path of the Apostle Paul Across Ancient Lands



Connie Dronette  
First Vice National Regent  
National Spiritual  
Enhancement Chairman

**G**od always has a plan and has mapped out every journey and road we will take if we but follow His will. Fifty pilgrims departed New York City for Greece prepared for the ten days ahead with anticipation. This year's pilgrimage, organized by the National Regent and Chaplain, followed the route traditionally associated with St. Paul. I connect with St. Paul, having figuratively been knocked off my horse a few times myself.

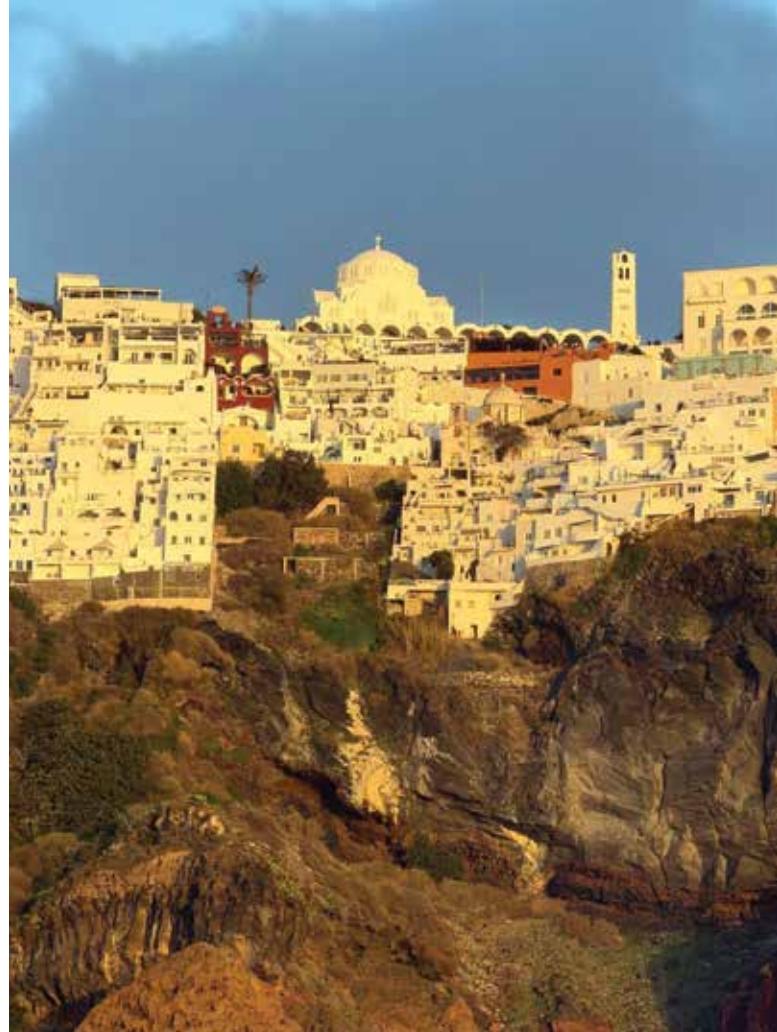
The Apostle Paul embarked on several missionary journeys across the eastern Mediterranean, spreading the message of the Gospel and establishing early Christian communities. Today, pilgrims from around the world retrace his steps through Greece and Turkey, experiencing both spiritual enrichment and a profound connection to early Christian history. The "Footsteps of St. Paul" pilgrimage is more than a travel itinerary—it is a transformative encounter with the roots of faith, set amidst breathtaking landscapes and ancient ruins. I couldn't believe that we were seeing objects and ruins from 6000 BC.

St. Paul traveled widely through important Greco-Roman cities. We visited Corinth, Thessaloniki, Phillipi, Ephesus and Patmos—places Paul's letters reference in the New Testament, adding context to the readings at Mass. His

stories came to life as we visited the cities. I don't think any of us will hear the words, "A reading from St. Paul to the Ephesians," without thinking about the sights we witnessed in Ephesus.

Our journey began in Athens, Greece. Paul gave a speech at the Areopagus, interacting with philosophers and thinkers of that era. Ancient beliefs included various gods and goddesses considered rulers of the world. We visited the Acropolis and Parthenon, admiring the ancient ruins from 525 BC. The climb was tough but rewarding, foreshadowing many more miles of walking in the days ahead.

Next, we traveled to Corinth, where Paul lived for eighteen months, founding a vibrant Christian community and penning his letters to the Corinthians. Each stop immerses pilgrims in the world of the early church, blending biblical narratives with tangible archaeological remains. Our tour guide told stories about Paul's stay in Corinth as we walked through the ruins. Paul worked there as a tent maker with Aquilla and his wife Priscilla. The couple were new Jewish-Christians who were exiled from Rome. Many of you might remember when St. Paul met them in the Chosen Series. I want to rewatch that episode to revisit the places we saw.



The next day, we saw scenic villages and ancient ruins, including the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. At the museum, we viewed archaeological finds like the bronze Charioteer statue. The discoveries from these digs are impressive.

Our next visit was to Meteora where we were mesmerized by amazing views, green valleys, and steep rock formations. Monasteries were built on these rock formations in the 12th and 13th centuries. Before that, the monks lived in caves in the rock formations that can still be seen today. The sight of them will leave you breathless. Of the twenty-four monasteries that were built, six are still in existence today. We visited the monastery of St. Stephen, then drove to a viewpoint where we could view all six from a distance. This was a special stop for Shirley Malonson from Houston, Texas, who states, "Meteora was my absolute favorite! The views were breathtaking. The history of the monasteries was intriguing to me. I loved the mountainside. The pilgrimage was absolutely amazing."

Our route led us to Philippi, where St. Paul baptized Lydia, the first European convert, and was imprisoned for his teachings. Father Erick celebrated Mass and invited us to renew our Baptismal promises there. Claudia Ross from Wilmington, N.C., said "In Philippi, our outdoor Mass with Fr. Erick at the stream where Paul baptized Lydia was

so special and memorable. The sound of the stream, the birds, and the lovely voices of our group singing during the Mass is something I will hold dear for the rest of my life." Christine Parker, from N.C. as well, said that Mass at the site of Lydia's baptism was a spiritual moment for her.

In Thessaloniki, we viewed remnants of the ancient city where Paul preached and wrote his letters to the Thessalonians. The journey continues to Berea (Veria), where local Jews and Greeks welcomed Paul's message. From Thessaloniki, we went back to Athens. We were all excited to board the Aegean Cruise the next morning.

On the first day of the cruise, we stopped at the island of Mykonos. On the island, we meandered through the narrow winding streets and saw the iconic windmills and brilliant whitewashed houses. It is a beautiful island.

The next day would be the day many of us had waited for. We were going to the house of the Virgin Mary and St. John in Ephesus. This was a favorite stop. It was so serene, and I could sense the presence of Mary inside her home. It was also a favorite stop for Mary Edmond from Houston, TX. Leaving her prayers on the prayer wall was a highlight for her. I don't usually give to people begging for money, but a little girl touched my heart. I gave her a few euros. The smile she gave me was heartwarming. Yvette Greigo



and Priscilla Bustos, both from New Mexico said that their favorite stop was also Mary's house. Priscilla said, "I absolutely loved Mary's house. The presence I felt while I walked in the same place as Mother of Jesus – all I can say is, I felt blessed." Yvette said that the house had an effect on me. As I slowly entered the little house, I began to think about our Blessed Mother who had also moved about space. The thought brought tears to my eyes and peace to my heart. I was overwhelmed with this realization."

We then went to the city of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient cities, which was a major center for Paul's ministry. Here, he preached in the great theater. We walked the marble streets Paul once trod, visited the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, and viewed the remains of the early Christian basilicas.

After we left Ephesus, our next stop on the cruise was the island of Patmos. We visited the cave where St. John wrote Revelation. We saw the indentation in the rock wall where he rested his head at night. We also visited a monastery near the cave. It was majestic.

The next day, we stopped at the island of Santorini, which many consider to be the most beautiful of all of the Greek islands. Sami Guilherme, from California, loved Santorini. She said, "one memory from the trip I will never forget was going to Santorini and going to the top on the cable cars. Seeing the city at night with all the lights was the most breathtaking experience I've ever had, and I was so lucky to be able to see it all with my Auntie Emily."

This was the last night on the cruise, and we were all a little sad to see it end. It was back to Athens where we began to prepare for our long flight home. For us, the Footsteps of St. Paul Pilgrimage was more than a historical exploration—it was an opportunity for spiritual renewal. Walking in Paul's footsteps deepened our understanding of scripture, faith, and the enduring power of the Gospel message. Our journey was accompanied by prayer, worship, and reflection.



In conclusion, I will leave you with a few more insights from some of the pilgrims.

Helene Shepard shared, "I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Saint Paul. I hadn't realized how many places he traveled or how deeply his life and ministry impacted the early Christians. The journey was both inspiring and challenging. At every step, I witnessed the true CDA Sisterhood in action—the care, concern, and generosity of everyone were overwhelming and deeply moving.

One of the highlights for me was visiting Santorini. Reaching the top (with the help of the cable car!) and taking in the breathtaking view was unforgettable. We visited the island's only Roman Catholic Church, home to just sixty Catholics. They truly need our prayers so that they may remain strong in their faith.

Having been on most of the CDA pilgrimages, I can honestly say this was the best pilgrimage ever. I thank God for blessing me with this opportunity to deepen my spirituality and to experience the beauty of our CDA Sisterhood."

Essie Walker, National Regent Elect, wrote "It was such a spiritual experience to attend Mass in the Modern



Greek outdoor Chapel. As we approached the site, it was such a spiritual blessing and feeling to see other groups attending Mass, praying, or just meditating.

Sitting on the stone bleachers waiting for Father Erick to start Mass, we could hear the Holy Water flowing up stream. Individuals were blessing themselves with the water.

The statue of Lydia was right in front of us. Lydia was the first to convert to Christianity in Europe. It is recorded that this was the site St Paul baptized Lydia and her household. God opened Lydia's heart after being baptized by St. Paul. So much so, that she took it upon herself to invite St. Paul and his companions to stay at her home. Her hospitality showed her commitment to the Christian Faith.

Lydia was also known for her business knowledge in the trade of selling purple cloth, which was a commodity during that era. Her actions and heart showed that she could maintain her spiritual faith while supporting a thriving business. Lydia used her business skills and community involvement to demonstrate kindness, inclusiveness, and support to others while at the same time promoting her faith.

Lydia's story reminds us that regardless of our



knowledge or wealth, simple gestures of kindness can be tools for great purposes.

And last but certainly not least, words from Worthy National Regent Susan Moné, "The Greece and Turkey pilgrimage was such a wonderful, inspiring experience. It's difficult to pick one place or event that was my favorite. Many years ago, at a retreat I was told that when I viewed God's beautiful creation to imagine a gift tag hanging there that said, To Susan with Love, God. Well, I lost track of the many gift tags. Of course, it was so special to go to Mary's house and walk through the rooms she and St. John lived in over 2000 years ago. We were blessed to have our National Chaplain, Fr. Erick as our spiritual guide as we walked in the steps of St. Paul. Father celebrated Mass every day and all our CDA members and families were remembered at each one. One of my most inspiring events was our outdoor Mass at the Anglican Church of St. Lydia. We were in a beautiful setting with a creek flowing around where the altar was and little bridges for Father to cross over. The best gift for me was sharing the two special weeks with so many of my wonderful CDA sisters. This pilgrimage will surely be one of the best highlights of my term as the National Regent." ☩

# Sacred Images



Karin Dudash  
National Director  
National Newsletter Chairman



**“**I want to see God.” This longing, described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 2557), captures humanity’s deep desire to encounter the divine. Yet seeing God is beyond human ability: “Thou cannot see my face; for man shall not see me and live” (Exodus 33:20). With Christ’s incarnation, God became visible. Early Christians used icons to make the invisible God present, meeting humanity’s longing to see God through sacred art.

What is an icon? Commonly, the word means “image.” In the Christian tradition—especially in the early centuries—an icon was a religious image deliberately created for veneration and prayer, rather than merely decoration or art. This sacred intent and liturgical use, rather than artistic technique, define an icon. Whether painted or “written,” an icon is identified by its religious purpose: serving as a window to the divine and a focus for meditation and prayer. As the Catechism explains, “Christian iconography expresses in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words. Image and word illuminate each other” (1160). Therefore, icons meet the human desire to see God by providing visual access to the sacred. They bridge the visible and invisible.

Like cherished photos, icons make spiritual reality tangible and bolster faith. Called ‘windows into Heaven,’ they help believers encounter the unseen and support daily devotion. Icons are sacramentals to be venerated, serving prayer and devotion—not worship. They also teach history and morality by displaying sacred events and the values we strive to uphold, inspiring us to follow in the footsteps of the saints. Creating and venerating icons fosters community, as seen in recent workshops.

An icon writing workshop offers a serene atmosphere of prayer and an opportunity to explore the history and significance of icons. Oklahoma CDA members participated in a workshop led by Beverly Layton, a renowned iconographer. Participants spent the week (over 40 hours) creating images of St. Michael the Archangel. The event concluded with a unique blessing of the icons by Father Phil Seeton at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lawton, OK.

Participants in the workshop ranged from beginners to advanced students. Those with prior experience honed their skills and understanding of the process. Those who had never written an icon were directed step by step through the drawing and painting required in iconography.



The images we painted contained spiritual power and grace. The work was undertaken in prayer to God and the saint we were painting. As I carefully worked on the details of my painting, I felt as though the Lord Himself was present and guiding my hand.

This experience demonstrates that, with dedication and focus, anyone can create an iconic piece of art. I encourage my CDA sisters to participate in an icon writing workshop and discover its transformative power for themselves. Creating icons is more than an art; it is a prayerful way to respond to humanity's desire to see God. Iconography gives faith visual form, offering a glimpse into the unseen and uniting our spiritual longing with the presence of the divine.

This leads to a final thought: Do icons inspire faith in non-believers? Sometimes. But, for the faithful, these beautiful images foster a sense of belief. As the Catechism teaches, "sacred images [icons] in our churches and homes are intended to awaken and nourish our faith in the mystery of Christ" (1192). Thus, icons answer humanity's longing to see God by bringing the sacred closer to our daily lives. ☩

# Falling in Love WITH JESUS



Mary Ann Kizer  
National Director  
National Quality of Life Chairman

**W**hen Susan Moné, National Regent, gave us the theme for Share magazine's fall edition, "Falling in Love with Jesus," I thought, as a cradle Catholic, I've always loved Jesus.

My mom was Czech and raised as a Lutheran. My dad was German and raised as a Catholic. Back in 1946, Catholics married Catholics. Before they could be married, my mom had to convert to become a Catholic. They were blessed with five children, two girls and three boys with a 14-year span from oldest to youngest. I am the second oldest between an older sister and three younger brothers. A crucifix with Jesus hung on the wall above our sofa.

As each of the kids turned six, we began first grade at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Texas. Our teachers were the nuns who lived in their second-floor dormitory above the school's office. In the first grade, Sr. Hilda practiced the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be with the entire class. She told us to practice at home and when we knew the Our Father, tell her and we would say it aloud in front of the class. I learned the Our Father quickly, but with 26 kids in the class, I didn't want to be the first to recite the Our Father.

One day, Nick Grahman told Sr. Hilda that he knew the Our Father. As soon as he finished reciting it, I told her that I knew the prayer also. From that day on, I became one of the most talkative students in the class.

It was a fun life until one day it wasn't. My mom went to the doctor in May 1963. He put her in the hospital, and she stayed there for months. Then she was transferred to a hospital in Wharton. A few months later, she was sent home to die. My Aunt Helen Appelt lined all of us children up by age to talk to our mom. It was the week before Christmas. I prayed that mom would live until Christmas and then keep on living. The next day, mom was in so much pain that she was taken back to the hospital.

Mom lived until Christmas. She lived until New Year's. I just knew that she would get well and keep on living in answer to my prayers.

But one night, January 11, 1964, a neighbor came over.



He told my dad, "Mary passed away." Dad came to my sister and my bedroom, and I remembered him asking, "Can you hear me?" I pretended to be asleep, but my sister said, "Yes."

The next morning my sister asked me if I knew our mom had passed away. I told her that I knew.

The visitation and funeral were planned, held, and I cried and cried. Then I told myself that I would never cry again.

Fast forward to 1997. My oldest son, Jeffrey, was pinned under a grain bin in July and died August 6, from Necrotizing Fasciitis caused by bacteria entering his wounds. I cried for the first time since my mom died.

August 6 is the Feast of the Transfiguration of Jesus. It is set 40 days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, September 14. Jeffrey was born September 14, 1975.

Why am I telling this story about falling in love with Jesus? Every day of my life, I've talked to Jesus, prayed to Jesus, and even asked Mary to intercede with her Son, Jesus, to intercede with His Father God. Many different requests over the years and many prayers answered by Jesus.

Each CDA member has a special connection to Jesus. Just saying the name, "Jesus" relieves stress and diffuses situations. Many people have told me, "You've been through a lot." My response is, "It's nothing compared to what Jesus went through."

Each of us can offer our suffering and pain for the greater honor and glory of God the Father, God the Son, Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit.

Kiss your crucifix when you pray the Rosary. It is a small gesture to thank Jesus for enduring the pain, suffering, and death on the Cross to redeem our souls. Lead others to Jesus with your Faith.

Be Kind Every day. Stay Blessed. 

# MEET *Apostleship of the Sea*



Peggy Guckin  
National Director  
National Projects and Charities Chairman



**“**Falling in Love with the Lord” across all oceans and shores of all hemispheres.”

In 1920, the Port Ministry was conceived. Its goal is to provide spiritual, physical, and psychological services to seamen at port locations in the United States and on cruise ships. The Apostleship of the Sea is one of our National Charities.

During October and early November across the country in port cities, many Catholic Daughters and other volunteers make ditty bags to be taken on the cargo ships to be distributed to the men and women on board. Items collected for the bags are toiletry items (regular size), lip balm, knitted hats and scarves, work gloves, socks, writing paper, pens, hard candy, and playing cards. If your members live near a port city and are not involved in this project, please contact Apostleship of Sea. If you are not near a port, maybe you could consider sending an extra donation to the National Office for this worthy cause. Donations for ditty bags will be accepted all year long. “Falling in Love with the Lord” helps you to serve the crew members in ports and on ships.

Apostleship of the Sea also provides priests on cruise ships for the crew and the passengers. Holland America Lines (HAL) has a priest on every ship and cruise. National Regent, Susan Moné and I have been on many cruises (HAL) over the years and have known priests who have served on cruise ships, so we know first-hand what the priest does. They have daily Mass for passengers and a late-night Mass for the crew who work all day for twelve hours or more, and they look forward to hearing and participating in the Masses. The priest is also available for confession and guidance/counseling when needed. The crew members are away from home for 9-12 months at a time, and they send the money home to support their families. They have little opportunity to be off the ship to call home. They are very polite, courteous, and helpful. Apostleship of the Sea provides the ships with all the necessary items the priest needs for Mass from vestments to hymn books. The only cost to the priest is that they need to get themselves from home to the ship and back. At the last Mass for passengers, the priest always asks that when filling out their survey to always mention that they enjoy having a priest on board and having Mass

available to them. Father would also mention that there was a donation box and that the money was given to a charity of his choice. On a cruise that I took, one of the ports was Tel Aviv. The priest took a small group of us into Jerusalem, and we experienced all the holy sites.

## **Spread the word to your priest**

### **Cruise Ship Priest Program**

#### **Objective**

- Screen and approve Roman Catholic priests for ministry onboard cruise ships.
- Provide cruise passengers validly ordained and accredited priests to serve onboard.
- Ensure cruise lines are assigned approved and trained priests in good standing.

For more information about the program, and our expectations of the priests onboard, please see our [Cruise Ship Priest Manual](#).

AOS-USA appreciates the services of the priest to the passengers, staff and crew on cruises. We pray that your experience will be a rewarding one. Providing the Sacraments, Pastoral Care, Counseling, and a kind word to so many people far from home, is truly a work of Christ, and we thank you for your good work onboard

Remember if you are giving monetary donations for your court to be credited for the Apostleship of the Sea, you must send money to the National Office. You can find the form listing all National Projects and Charities on the website [catholicdaughters.org](http://catholicdaughters.org). At the National Convention, a spreadsheet is given that shows what each state has donated to each of our projects and charities. You only need to send one check made out to “Catholic Daughters of the Americas,” and mark where and how much money you are donating. We do ask that all courts give at least \$20.00 per year to each project and charity. Some states have their courts send donations to the state secretary with the state form, which includes the state charities and national charities. At their convention, these states provide a spreadsheet showing what each court has given in the two-year period. Catholic Daughters have been supporting the Apostleship of the Sea since its conception. Apostleship of Sea also supports us at times with an ad in Share magazine. A win win for all. 



# Falling for the Lord!

## OH, HOW WE LOVE THE LORD AND EACH OTHER!



Rita Carlson

National Director

National Campus Courts Chairman

National Website Chairman

**W**hen I first heard this theme, I thought of the Christmas song “Fall on your knees, oh hear the Angels voices! O night divine, the night Christ was born.”

We are united in our faith, church, and community. But what happens when there is conflict and/or turmoil, strife? We pray, we adjust, we adapt, we reconcile, we compromise.

This is our faith; this is who we are. Our organization must still withhold our Bylaws, our founding fathers knew we must have structure otherwise we would run amuck. Such as the use of Parliamentary Procedures, without the order of running the business meeting where would we be? Chaos.

Some have suggested that National needs to bend and not be so strict. Every member has a voice, every voice counts.

This is your organization to take care of and of course abide by the Bylaws, conflicts can be resolved with mercy and kindness like our Lord has given us.

Conflict...can be resolved through prayer, listening, preparation and hard work. We have all experienced conflict at some point in our lives, with our children, grandchildren and yes in our CDA courts. So how do manage these moments? With our children it is compromise, you clean your room and pick up your toys, and we will have ice cream! Let's make a deal! What child would not go for that. As adults it is a bit more sensitive

although if you listen carefully and pray together, you will find out where the conflict is and how to resolve. Bring both parties together to speak their concerns to reach a consensus.

We all have talents and skills that we do not recognize in ourselves until we get the call or the invite; how would like to chair the fundraising event or the spiritual committee?

This is where we provide love and mercy in a Jesus moment. Kindness can go a long way, what would Jesus or Mary do? Pray and deliberate about this situation before you go into a meeting that may be uncomfortable for everyone.

This is for the good of the order and for the good of the individual. We all have our talents, strengths, and weaknesses. Let us help them shine by providing an avenue for them to succeed.

I would like to close with a quote from Campus Court Regent Elizabeth Sattler, Our Lady of Wisdom, #2799:

“I think that being a Catholic Daughter has to do a lot with striving for the Lord with other women who are also striving for the Lord. We serve together, we pray together, we strive to support each other and any brother or sister that comes into our presence. I think a lot about when Jesus says in Matthew 18:20, ‘For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.’”

I say well done, Elizabeth, a perfect reminder for all of us. ☩

# FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE LORD: *The Power of Words and a Heart of Gratitude*



Susan Killian  
National Director  
National Spiritual  
Enhancement Chairman

START EACH DAY WITH A GRATEFUL HEART



**“**Falling in love with the Lord,” is not a one-time moment but a lifelong journey. Like any relationship, it deepens as we spend time, share our hearts, and grow in gratitude for all that He has done for us. One of the most powerful ways we honor His love is through our words — the kind or inspiring words we speak to others, whisper in our prayers, or in song.

## **The Power of Words**

Scripture makes it clear that words carry incredible weight. *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits”* (Proverbs 18:21). Words can encourage or discourage, heal or wound, draw us closer to God or push us further away. How do you choose to speak your words?

Think about a time when someone spoke words of encouragement to you. Perhaps it was a teacher who told you, “You have a gift,” or a friend who said, “I believe in you.” Those words likely shaped your confidence and even your choices. In the same way, words of prayer and Scripture shape our faith and our hearts.

We have all experienced the sting of careless words. Gossip, criticism, or harsh words that can leave wounds that take years to heal. “Falling in Love with the Lord,” means surrendering even our speech to Him, asking that our mouths be instruments of blessing, not harm.

## **Gratitude as a Way of Life**

One of the choices we can make with our words is to have gratitude in all we do. Gratitude isn’t simply about being polite or saying thank you. It is deep in our hearts where we know that every good thing is a gift from God.

The psalmist reminds us, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever” (Psalm 107:1). Gratitude shifts our perspective. Instead of focusing on what we lack, we see the abundance of God’s blessings. Gratitude doesn’t change our circumstances, but it changes our mind and heart.

One thing I do on my drive to work each morning is to

play the song “Gratitude” by Brandon Lake. It gets my mind and heart thinking immediately about all the many blessings I have and to thank the Lord for them.

## **Singing Our Love to God**

Sometimes, the most powerful words are the ones we sing. Christian music has a way of reaching the depths of our hearts when ordinary speech cannot.

The song “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)” is another song of gratitude I listen to on my way to work. The lyrics remind us to praise God not only for the everyday blessings but also for the daily mercies we often overlook, such as the strength to face the day, or the forgiveness we don’t deserve.

## **Ways to Choose Words to build up God’s kingdom and to Have a Heart of Gratitude**

“Falling in Love with the Lord,” is not just about big moments; it is about the daily choices to let our words reflect His love. Here are a few simple things you may already do and may consider trying:

- **Begin and end with thanks.** Start your day by naming three things for which you’re grateful and end the day the same way.
- **Choose words that build up.** Before speaking, ask, “Will this encourage, bless, or inspire?”
- **Read Scripture.** Let the words of the Bible become your own. Passages like the Psalms offer prayers of gratitude.
- **Sing often.** Don’t wait for Sunday. Put on your favorite Christian song while driving, cooking, or gardening and sing with your whole heart.

## **A Heart That Sings**

When we use our words for gratitude, prayer, encouragement, and song, we find ourselves falling deeper in love with the Lord. This joy radiates and encourages those around us to do the same.

As the hymn reminds us, there are *10,000 reasons* and more to bless the Lord. May we live each day with hearts filled with joy and gratitude as we draw closer to the Lord. 

# LEADERSHIP



## "HERE I AM, LORD ~ LEAD THE WAY."



Rosie Stockwell  
National Director  
National Leadership Chairman

**D**eveloping a personal relationship with the Lord will lead us to finding the true meaning of life. However, it is not necessarily an easy endeavor. As human beings in today's secular world, with so many distractions, we may find ourselves unfulfilled and at a loss in our spiritual life. Opening our hearts to the Lord will help us find that love because his love completes us. Peace, humility, and love will **Lead the Way** towards achieving the Catholic Daughters of the Americas' purposes of **Spirituality and Service**. Falling in love with the Lord and achieving holiness is a long sought after spiritual goal for many.

### **Peace**

St. Pope John Paul II tells us "Do not be afraid to take a chance on peace, to teach peace, to live peace." Being peaceful people enables us to be humble. As Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA), find ways to be peacemakers. Develop projects in the church community which will lead to a better understanding of the CDA motto of **Unity and Charity** by becoming a servant of servants. Become self-aware and recognize the limitations when walking and living like Christ did as a peacemaker.

### **Humility**

**Lead the Way** with the heart of a servant to achieve a more perfect spiritual life. Daily reminders to be humble leads us to a deeper spirituality and opens the door to a true and pure love for Christ. Cultivate humility to establish a sense of security that does not depend on the

validation of the world. Through humility we can focus on Christ and others by recognizing our limitations and flaws. Humility brings a sense of peace to our inner world by liberating us from self-absorption and allowing us to experience a genuine and selfless love for others.

### **Love**

Love knows no boundaries; it is self-encompassing. Remember to **Lead the Way** on your path to holiness by being strong from within and generous in love. You are never alone on this journey because Christ is with you. He has called you and chosen you to live as a child of God. Love is a divine gift that never runs dry. In John 14:6 "*I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life*" we are made aware of the path that leads to God is solely through him. Our love is incomplete, but the Lord's love completes us and those around us.

*Here I am, Lord*, a well-known hymn, helps us to understand that through the love of our Lord, we can follow him in peace, humility and love.

*Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

Recommended reading on Humility from Tan Books:  
*Humility of Heart* by Fr. Cajetan Mary da Bergamo  
*Know Thyself* (100 Guided Meditations on Humility of Heart), adapted from the writings of Rev. Fr. Cajetan Mary da Bergamo. 

In this issue we are highlighting the Themes of each state instead of Bible Verses. Space does not allow for the themes from all states in this issue, but we will post the rest of them in future issues. The themes are moving and beautiful.



#### ARIZONA COURT PRESENTS MEDALLIONS

Members of Court Daughters of St. Anthony #2651, Casa Grande, Arizona, were presented with Medallions by Arizona State Regent Lynn Wilson. Seen in the photo at the Medallions ceremony, left to right, Lynn Wilson, Regent Carolann DiMuzio, Vice Regent Susan Gladman, Recording Secretary Elizabeth Zambrano and Treasurer Anita Copeland. Not pictured Financial Secretary Jody Travis.



#### CALIFORNIA COURT HOLDS BABY SHOWER

Court Santa Maria #1079, Santa Maria, California, held its annual May Baby Shower. Items were given to the Care Net Pregnancy and Resource Center. Pictured with their gifts, back row, left to right, Vice Regent Anne Kuczkowski, Regent Nancy Cole, Lori Vitiello, Recording Secretary Mary Louise Hoffman and Mary Harrison. Next row left to right, Esther Bartlett, Julie Valenzuela, Financial Secretary Terry Casey, Treasurer and Past California State Regent Rosemarie Thomson, Bonnie Grahek, JoAnn Ponce, Rosalinda Perez, Virginia Serena, Bea Baker, Peggy Morris and Gloria Manuele. Sitting, front row, left to right, Yolanda Ramos, Marsha Miller, and Emma Rodriguez.

*New Mexico ~ State Regent: Crystal Montoya*

*“Perhaps you were created  
for a time like this.”*



#### CDA SUNDAY HONORED BY ARIZONA COURT

Pictured at the Catholic Daughter Sunday celebration of Court St. Clare of Assisi #2677, Surprise, Arizona, third from left, Vice Regent Connie McLean, Teddi Murray, District Deputy Donna Tomassone, Pastor and Court Chaplain Fr. Thaddeus McGuire, Financial Secretary Vanessa Jones, Treasurer Becky Nievera and Regent Lorrie Holland.



#### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY FOR TEXAS COURT

Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry of Court St. Luke #2749, Brownsville, Texas, meet once a month to create a warm, comforting, enfolding and embracing shawl for those in need. Cynthia Cantu explains. “The shawls are made by hand with Love and Prayer by our members. We deliver the shawls to oncology, ICU, and hospice patients. Father Juan Manuel Salazar blessed the shawls. We wrap up our shawls with a prayer card and medallion of our patron saint Mary.” In the photo Father Juan Manuel, Sophie Garza and Sylvia Price examine their beautiful Prayer Shawls.



### FLORIDA COURT ATTENDS RETREAT

Members of Court St. Vincent de Paul, #2172, Holiday Florida, gathered at Espiritu Santo Catholic Church for “Vision Day 2025 – Refresh, Renew, Restart, Retreat.” Court Chaplain, Father George Varkey began the day with a stirring message inspired by the Sunday Gospel. The morning focused on members completing their individual spiritual charism inventory, which provides direction for using those charisms. After a wonderful lunch, they broke into small groups to share their discoveries. This exercise helped them begin planning for the 2025–2026 CDA year, identifying areas of service for the months ahead. The day concluded with Mass, providing a spiritually uplifting and energizing time of worship together. Retreatants can be seen in the photo with Father Varkey and their Unity and Charity banner.



### LOUISIANA COURT HONORS MEMBERS

“During our May Meeting,” Court Circle of Love #2756, Zachary, Louisiana, Financial Secretary Sue Lemoine said, “Father Lamar Partin, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Zachary, awarded anniversary pins to court members who have been in CDA five years or more. Some were not in attendance.” Recipients in the picture, front row, left to right, Rhonda Boatner, Beth Moore, Donna Richards, Pat Davis and Jellie Tolentino. Second row, left to right, Charlotte Delatorre, Kinta Castillo, Amy Schulz, Solitaire Kimich, Natascha Wilcox, Jackie Delatte, Karen Collins, Janet Kelly and Katie Suire. Back row, left to right, Brenda Sanders, Dot Dickinson, Claudia Hurst, Elizabeth Partin, Connie Tillman, Donna Ackerman and Angel Fisher.



### SHRINE VISIT BY IOWA COURT

Court Cedar Rapids #1768, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, made a Bus Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion and the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians. The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion is especially significant as the first and only approved Marian apparition site in the United States. Both shrines have been designated as official pilgrimage sites for the 2025 Jubilee Year! “Our trip was joyful, and the bus was filled to capacity!” Elaine Boes said. “Led by our Spiritual Guide, Fr. Chris Podhajsky, we traveled with 53 pilgrims.” Court Pilgrims can be seen in the photo.



### NEW COURT IN MARYLAND: CONGRATULATIONS!

Court Divine Mercy #2821, Baltimore, Maryland, was instituted on Sunday, May 25, 2025, at New All Saints Church in Baltimore. Thirty-six women were received into the new court. The five officers installed were Regent Sherita Thomas, Vice Regent Ingrid Sabio-McLaughlin, Recording Secretary Torena Brown, Financial Secretary Joann Logan, and Treasurer Edith Thomas. The institution ceremony was attended by state and national leadership, as well as multiple courts from around Maryland. Immediate Past State Regent Hannah Bea Merez conducted the institution and installation ceremony. In the photo are the 36 Charter Members of Court Divine Mercy, including, third row, Maryland State Chaplain Fr. Christopher Moore, Spiritual Advisor Sr. Brenda Cherry, OSP and Pastor Fr. Kenny Udumka, C.S.Sp.



### FELLOWSHIP ENJOYED BY MINNESOTA COURTS

Court St. Bernard #886, Lismore, Minnesota, was overjoyed to see members from so many area courts attend their salad and hot dish luncheon. Courts represented were Court Santa Maria #247, Adrian; Court St. Joan of Arc #1291, Marshall; and Court Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton. Special guest was Minnesota State Regent Cathy Nelson from Court St. Anne #1840, Medford. Attendees are seen in the picture with the bright smiles of CDA sisterhood. Not shown in the picture are members of Court Madonna #839, Wilmont.



### PILGRIMAGE BY NEBRASKA COURT

Court Our Lady of Perpetual Adoration, #2036, Bellevue, Nebraska, sponsored a Jubilee Pilgrimage to venerate the incorrupt Sr. Wilhelmina Lancaster, Mother Foundress of the Benedictines of Mary. "Pilgrims prayed Midday prayers with the Benedictine Sisters followed by the celebration of a Traditional Latin Mass," Cindy Bishop explains. "Lunch was served by women dressed as Harvey Girls, a tribute to the young, unmarried women of good character who famously served meals to train passengers in the late 1800s." Pilgrims seen in the photo include members of Nebraska courts #764 York, #988 Columbus, #2036 Bellevue and #2423, Omaha.



### MINNESOTA COURT VISITS NURSING HOME

Members of Court Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton, Minnesota, visited Westbrook Nursing Home to assist residents playing Bingo and to serve cake and ice cream. Participants can be seen in the photo.



### NEBRASKA COURT SUPPORTS SEMINARIANS

Court San Salvador #576, David City, Nebraska, has supported Seminarians in their area. Pictured front row, left to right, Seminarian Jon Kadlec (whose mother is court member Barb Kadlec), Fr. Douglas Daro (mother is court member Loretta Daro), Fr. Augustine Reimers, Fr. Scott Nemec and Seminarian Cody Hein. Back row, left to right, Fr. James Meysenburg and Fr. Matthew Kovar. Not pictured, Fr. John Birkel and Seminarian Eli Reiter.

*Iowa ~ State Regent: Brenda Vore*

***"I have called you by name; you are mine." Isaiah: 43***

*Maryland ~ State Regent: Kathy Monteil*

***"Put out into the deep and put down your nets for a catch." Luke 5:4***



### PENNSYLVANIA COURT HOLDS RETREAT

Court St. Rene #1868, Monroeville, Pennsylvania, held its fifth annual Divine Mercy Retreat at St. Susanna Church in Penn Hills. Lisa Intrieri-Fellner explains, "The retreat is held each year on the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday. The day-long event is comprised of a mix of speakers, prayer, music, quiet reflection, and lunch for participants. The schedule includes the 'Divine Mercy Chaplet' to complete the ninth day of the Divine Mercy Novena. Confession is available to participants following the retreat. Court St. Rene provides the retreat for free. The event is open to all men and women." Retreatants can be seen in the photo.



### FALLEN HEROES HONORED BY NEW YORK COURT

Every Memorial Day Court Our Lady of the Lake #2585, Patterson, New York, march in the Annual Memorial Day Parade at Putnam Lake in Patterson, New York. "This is a time to remember our fallen heroes," Regent Peggy Zambraski said, "the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country." Court members can be seen at the parade with their Unity and Charity purple banner.

*North Carolina ~ State Regent: Debbie Del Corro El Chayeb*

*"Peace, I leave with you.  
My peace I give to you." John 14:27*



### HOT DOG LUNCHEON BY TEXAS COURT

Court Our Lady Queen of the Lake, #2364, Lake Jackson, Texas, provided a delicious hot dog luncheon with all the trimmings and a red/white/blue dessert for the Gathering Place which provides free socials and services for families affected by Alzheimer's. In the photo, back row, Betty Jo Jurries, Pat Williams, Rachel Warner, Norma Taylor and Isabel Respondek. Front row, Alissa Harrison, Dottie Mensik, Joan Taplett, Juanita Oppermann, and Cynthia Grandjean. Chairmen for the event were Pat Williams and Betty Jo Jurries.



### SHRINE VISIT BY NEW YORK COURT

Members of Court Our Lady of Charity Court #2355, Flushing, New York, were joined by friends for a pilgrimage to the Shrine of our Lady of the Island in Manorville, New York. Nilda Rosa adds, "Upon the completion of the Mass we were graced with a special blessing from the presiding priest." Pilgrims can be seen under the statue at the Shrine.

*South Dakota ~ State Regent: Michele Sage*

*"I can do all things through Christ  
who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13*



### PILGRIMAGE BY PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Members of Court St. Rita #523, Tyrone, Pennsylvania, traveled to Loretto, Pennsylvania, to learn more about Servant of God Father Demetrius Gallitzin, Apostle of the Alleghenies. "Father Gallitzin was a pioneer missionary in the United States," Regent Amy Brisbin said. "Many Catholics are now praying for his Canonization. In addition, the group attended Mass at Saint Michael the Archangel Basilica, which is also located in Loretto." In the photo at Prince Gallitzin Chapel House, left to right, Helen Dillon, Anita Sprankle-Wilson, Regent Amy Brisbin, Donna Cunningham and Debbie Zakrzewski.



### SHOWER OF ROSES BY TEXAS COURT

Court Sisters of the Holy Trinity #2802, Idalou, Texas, hosted a Shower of Roses Mother/Daughter Tea Party that honored St. Therese of Lisieux. These ladies shared in fellowship and made good deed/sacrifice beads used to help bring awareness of small acts of kindness or sacrifices offered to God. The beads were blessed by Deacon Ruben Martinez of Lorenzo, Texas. Court members pictured include Minerva Deleon, Mary Amador, Diana Bravo, Jeanette Rodriguez, Irene Ramirez, Dolores Salas-Marmolejo, Elvin Padilla, Melva Ramos, Stephanie Amador, Corina Martinez, Amanda Perales, Rosa Crip, Linda Perales, Georgina Barrera, Monica Hernandez, Marissa Arguello and Jessica Ramirez.



### TEXAS COURT SUPPORTS SEMINARIANS

Court Queenship of Mary #2776, Beaumont, Texas, held a Mardi Gras Fundraiser which raised \$3,100 for the Bishop Emeritus Curtis Guillory Endowment for the Diocese of Beaumont Seminarians. In addition, \$500 was given to the A.C.M, and \$700 was earmarked for scholarships. In the photo are Mardi Gras Chair Regent Debra Lynn Johnson and her husband Richard.



### TEXAS COURT APPRECIATES CLERGY

At their June Meeting Court Madonna #1817, Dallas, Texas, held their Annual Priest Appreciation Luncheon. Pictured at the luncheon, left to right, Treasurer Pat Hess, Regent Kathleen McGann, Spiritual Director Father Paul Mallam, Father Salvador Guzman, Father Joseph Megan, Father Larry Prichard and Father Martin Mwangi.

*Pennsylvania ~ State Regent; Margaret Giordano*

*"You are the Salt of the Earth.  
You are the Light of the World."*



### DISTRICT RETREAT BY TEXAS COURTS

Court Mother Cabrini #1422, El Paso, Texas, joined the other four courts in El Paso to hold the first CDA District Retreat at St. Steven Catholic Church. Representatives from all five courts created a planning committee to coordinate and collaborate in putting on the retreat. “The theme was Mary, ‘Model of Faith,’ ” Sandra Imperial said. “Past National Regent Olga Samaniego presented ‘We Are Catholic Daughters,’ portraying the history and the founding of CDA and how it progressed and grew throughout the years to the national organization we are now. This was an amazing retreat that educated all that attended in many ways from learning how CDA started and the many ways we connect with Mary bringing us that much closer to her.” In the photo, second row, center, Father Frank Hernandez is surrounded by District 1 CDA members.



### TEXAS COURT PRAYS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Court Our Mother of Peace and Unity #2487, Livingston, Texas, held a candlelight service for the victims of the Texas floods. “We had 25 members in a circle and prayed 25 individual prayers for the souls who died and everyone and everything affected by the floods in Central Texas which were so devastating,” Past Regent Rose Perez explains. “We touched on protection, guidance, wisdom, comfort, healing, strength, support, provision of hope and renewal. It was a beautiful candle service for the souls to see the light and to find their way.”



### DIVINE MERCY AT WASHINGTON COURT

Court Our Lady of the Islands #2514, Oak Harbor, Washington, treated parishioners to a wonderful Divine Mercy Cake and Cookies fellowship following the Divine Mercy Mass. The gathering’s theme reflected the colors of Mercy -- red and white. All proclaimed, “Jesus, I Trust in You.” Pictured with their court banner are Geri Hiestand, Kathy Bils and Rita Bartell Drum.



### NEW MEXICO COURT HOSTS RETREAT

Court Santa Maria #317, Albuquerque, New Mexico, held a retreat at the serene Norbertine Abbey entitled *The Sacred Path: A Woman's Journey of Self-Discovery*. The retreat, which offered a day of spiritual renewal, reflection and connection, welcomed 52 women on a meaningful journey of faith and self-discovery. Among the participants were three past Regents — Agneda Casaus, Catherine Collins and Angelina Romero — whose presence added a sense of legacy and continued devotion. Retreatants paused for the photo.



### MARDI GRAS AT WEST VIRGINIA COURT

Inspired by attending the CDA National Convention in New Orleans this past summer, Court Victory #379, Weston, West Virginia, spearheaded a Mardi Gras Party at St. Patrick Church parish in Weston. The court was assisted by the Knights of Columbus #1415 and members of the parish. The event included Cajun inspired food and desserts with a prize for finding the baby, live music, raffles, games of chance including a Human Slot machine, a door prize basket and a 50/50 drawing with a winning prize of \$1700. After decorating the night before, several CDA members posed with props, left to right, Donna Lake, Kathy Sims, Rachael Kuhn, Marilyn Bean, Kathy Boyle and Kim Derico.

*Texas ~ State Regent; Virginia Olsovsky*

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own Understanding.”*



### AWARDS NIGHT AT TEXAS COURT

Court Our Lady of Perpetual Help #296, Windthorst, Texas, held a special awards night in which they honored their senior members who have over six decades of dedication and service to the CDA. A lovely evening of food and fellowship was held with a special blessing for members by Court Chaplain, Fr. Michael Moloney O.F.S. Honorees with 60+ years membership are pictured with Fr. Moloney, left to right, Pat Zotz (62 years), Mary Ann Schroeder (61 years), Lois Wolf (66 years), Beverly Wilde (66 years), Joann Hoff (66 years), Barbara Meurer (64 years), Carolyn Smith (66 years) and Caroline Anderle (61 years). Not pictured, Shirley Williams (61 years), Mary Lou Schroeder (74 years), Billie Mae Hoff (62 years), Pauline Hoff (66 years), Glenda Schroeder (66 years), and Dorothy Meurer (73 years).

*Massachusetts ~ State Regent: Cynthia Patriaca*

*“Do Not be Afraid, for I have Redeemed You; I have Called You by Name and You are Mine.” Isaiah 43:1*



### CIRCLE OF LOVE PROJECTS BY COLORADO COURT

Court Our Lady of Peace #2728, Woodland Park, Colorado, adopted Sarah's Home and Daniel Academy as Quality of Life, Circle of Love projects. "Sarah's Home is a faith-based residential home in Peyton, Colorado, that gives a home to girls ages 12 – 17 who are survivors of human trafficking, providing emotional support, therapy, education and a safe place to live while they get on their feet," Evelyn Irving explains. "They are in the process of establishing Daniel Academy near Florissant, Colorado, on land that has been donated on a ranch property. This is a home, which hopefully will be open by the end of this year, for boys who also are survivors of human trafficking. There are no other homes like this for boys anywhere." Seen in the photo at their Human Trafficking table are Anna Fisher, Julie Hatch, Brenda Sambo, Chris Schwester and Evelyn Irving.



### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOUGHT BY IOWA COURT

Kathy Hauschild and Jenny Vaske, Lifesaver Campaign Chairpersons of Court Mary of the Assumption #1976, Manchester, Iowa, are pictured with Waypoint representative Jayme. The annual lifesaver campaign collected \$3351 of which \$1675.50 was distributed to the Iowa State Board and \$1675.50 to Waypoint. All proceeds go towards domestic violence abuse. Waypoint impacts thousands of lives throughout seven Northeast Iowa counties each year, with their Domestic Violence Victim Services Program.



### FLORIDA COURT HELPS HURRICANE CLEANUP

Members of Court Mother Teresa #2582, Zephyrhills, Florida, presented a check to a neighboring parish for hurricane clean up in the area. Many lives were disrupted and property damaged from the 2024 hurricanes and flooding. Father Carlos Rojas of St. Rita's Catholic Church in Dade City graciously accepted the court's donation toward their Gut and Muck clean up event as part of the 1,000,000 Acts of Mercy Challenge from the diocese. Court Mother Teresa was glad to help the dedicated volunteers who were helping their neighbors." Pictured in the photo with the symbolic donation check on display, front row, left to right, Regent Vicki Pedini, Past National Director Michele Bowman, Father Carlos Rojas, Vice Regent Donna Lonergan, Recording Secretary Cathi Kelly, Treasurer Janet Surigao and Financial Secretary Barbara Post. Back row, left to right, Vicki Massi, Barbara Rodemsky, District Deputy and Past State Regent Delia Funnell.



### IOWA COURT SUPPORTS HOSPITAL

Court St. Rose of Lima #6, Carroll, Iowa, generously donated \$500 to the Shelves of Grace program at St. Anthony Regional Hospital. Shelves of Grace is a hospital-based initiative designed to support patients and their families by addressing nutritional gaps, providing hygiene products, and assisting with transportation. This thoughtful donation was made possible by a memorial contribution from the family of a deceased Catholic Daughters member. St. Anthony and the Catholic Daughters extend heartfelt thanks to the family for honoring their loved one in this meaningful way. Pictured left to right Audrey Behrens, Joyce Masching, Kaye Stock Arndorfer, St. Anthony Foundation Director Sarah Foley and St. Anthony Clinics Director Stefanie King,



### LOUISIANA COURT ASSISTS CHAPEL

Members of Court Fr. Joseph Cazenavette #2741, Mandeville, Louisiana, blessed and dedicated a new adoration chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Church. Court members provided and served desserts for 600 guests and parishioners attending the reception. Pictured preparing desserts are Terry Holzenthal, Sandy Schaetz, Linda Favaloro, Diane Satter, Sharon Moore, Paulette Quintana, Regent Bonnie Boutwell, Jane Ramagos and Cindy Cazenavette.



### MARYLAND COURT SUPPORTS PREGNANCY CENTER

Court St. James #2207 Boonsboro, Maryland, initiated a service project on behalf of The Gabriel Network, a non-profit organization helping women facing unwanted pregnancies, to choose life. Court members can be seen in the photo surrounding their plentiful gifts for the Gabriel Network.



### BABY SHOWER BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw, New York, held a baby shower for the local Birthright Safe Haven for Moms in Crisis Pregnancies. Court members donated money, knitted blankets, diapers, outfits, and teddy bears. Seen in the photo smiling with joy among their plentiful baby gifts are Mary Paloglu, Angie Yakel, Maureen Bonanno, Lysset Wynn, Karin Lancellotti, Donna Wargo, Betty Golemba, Maryse Safar, Lynn O'Keefe and Dian Cifuni are smiling with joy.



### TEXAS COURT HOSTS BABY SHOWER

Court Santa Maria #184, Marshall, Texas, hosted a Gift Card Baby Shower for the Marshall Pregnancy Resource Center (MPRC) at their Annual Salad Dinner. The hall was decorated with a baby shower motif featuring pink and blue balloons and teddy bears. Regent Martha Roberts presented the Director of MPRC Michele Spencer with a \$600 check. Court members also donated \$745 in gift cards for MPRC. The gift cards will be used to buy baby items that will be distributed to mothers who choose life for their babies.



### LINUS BLANKET PROJECT BY MARYLAND COURT

Court St. Joseph #2300, Sykesville, Maryland, has participated in the Linus Blanket Project for the past 29 years. The women get together nine times each year for several hours and sew blankets to be distributed to hospitals in Carroll and Baltimore Counties, Maryland. This past year, 275 blankets were donated to hospitals to brighten the lives of many children. Pictured is Rosemary Tyler who oversees the Linus Blanket Project in our court.



### MILITARY SUPPORTED BY TEXAS COURT

For the past fourteen years Court Holy Rosary #1476, Rosenberg, Texas, has been partnering with Peace Lutheran Church to package and mail care boxes to overseas military troops each month. The court also donates quarterly to the cost of the postage. Pictured with their nicely packaged care boxes, front row, left to right, Mary Ondrush, Pat Schimara, Barbara Eben and Rose Pederson. Back row, left to right, Patricia Kubeczka and son Kyle, Nancy Zurek, Pat Haley and husband Robert.



### NEBRASKA COURT HELPS LOCAL NON-PROFIT

Court Columbia #401, Omaha, Nebraska, helped the local nonprofit Guiding Grace by providing baby welcoming backpacks for new arrivals. Financial Secretary Sandy Sykora explains, "Guiding Grace's mission is to dismantle the generational cycles of poverty through maternal care during pregnancy and after care in the form of continued education, peer support and career pathways. Court Columbia held a parish wide collection at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. They collected various baby items and clothes needed for the care of a newborn. Members then added more items and put all items in baby backpacks." Shown in the picture are 14 of the ladies of the court with backpacks ready to be delivered.

*West Virginia ~ State Regent: Marilyn Bean*

***"We are called to serve, not to be served."***



### NEW YORK COURT SUPPORTS SHELTER DOGS

Court St. Elizabeth #2687, Melville, New York, hosted their Ninth Annual Veterans Fundraiser. The proceeds benefited Paws of War, which trains and places shelter dogs to serve and provide independence to our U.S. military veterans that suffer from the emotional effects of war. A check for more than \$2,400 was presented by court members during their visit to the Paws of War facility in July. Pictured from left to right, Paws of War Kennel Technician Samuel Lopez, Director of Transportation and Facilities Derek Cartwright, Moira Larmour, Financial Secretary Joanne Giordano, Marge Cozzetto, Anne Marie Massaria, Suzanne Schmitz, Regent Karen Sheehan and Vice Regent Lisa Merbitz, Senior Director of Operations & Programs Courtney Collins and Kennel Manager Lissy Hernandez.



### NEW JERSEY COURT FILLS EASTER BASKETS

Court Our Lady of Mercy #1655, Sea Isle City, Jersey, filled over 100 Easter baskets for the needy and infirm in Cape May and Atlantic Counties in New Jersey. In the photo during the annual Easter Basket Drive are court members, seated, left to right, Grace Stango, Peg McDermott, Event Organizer Bette Keller, Barbara Cummins, Denise McGinly, Chick Flora and Trish Renz; standing, left to right, Betty Ann Brittingham, Cathy Fagan, Barbara Rice, Carole McCullough, Mary Jane Whinney and Barbara Doring.

*Minnesota ~ State Regent: Cathy Nelson*

***"Be the Light." Matthew 5:14***



### PENNSYLVANIA COURT GRILLS FOR CHARITY

Court Washington #1651, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Knights of Columbus Council 1083 worked together to grill lunch for the City Mission in Washington. This is an annual tradition to provide lunch every August for the City Mission. Court members can be seen with Knights in the kitchen at the event.



### HOMELESS YOUTH HELPED BY NEW MEXICO COURT

Court San Miguel, #2730, Socorro, New Mexico, participated in an almsgiving project donated by court members to support homeless youth in Socorro. The court collected \$300 in donations for this project. The care packets were presented to Samantha Vivian at the high school for distribution to the 16 unaccompanied minors identified by the school district in need. Court members had no idea that there were homeless youth in their community. The Court will continue to support this effort. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 4.2 million youth, young adults and teens experience homelessness in the US. In the photo behind the care packets for homeless youth are Valerie Moore, Samantha Vivian, and Bernice Montoya.

New Jersey ~ State Regent; Theresa Dietrich

***“Your Word is a lamp that guides me.”***



### SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE BY TEXAS COURT

Court Isabella The Catholic #683, Laredo, Texas, held a Back-to-School Supply Drive to distribute supplies to students in need for the upcoming school year. Court members distributed tote bags filled with school supplies to the Mission from Christ the King Catholic Church and St. Jude Catholic Church. The school supplies tote bags were presented on August 3, 2025, after Sunday Mass celebrated by Court Chaplain Rev. Toribio Guerrero. In the photo, standing behind the table of school supplies, left to right, Regent Alma A. Flores, Recording Secretary Gloria Rodriguez, Claudia Ochoa Rojas, Alicia Molina, Vice Regent Virginia Ramirez, Mary Macias, Lourdes Ramirez, Yolanda D. Garcia, Treasurer Alma Salinas and Gloria Vasquez.



### BIBLE SCHOOL AIDED BY TEXAS COURT

Members of Court St. Ann Mother of Mary #2649, La Vernia, Texas, generously gave their time to volunteer in different capacities at St. Ann's Vacation Bible School program in June. This year's theme was "True North: Finding Jesus in a Wild World." In the photo surrounded by festive, colorful balloons, left to right, back row, Pam Javor, Joy Scheel, Veronica Stavinoha, Cindy Kirby, Gloria Garza, and Doris Cormier. Front row, Joyce Madden, Christie Sanders and Shannon Witherell.

New York ~ State Regent: Julie Sterling

***“We are the Body of Christ.”***



### SIXTY-FIVE YEARS FOR IOWA COURT

Court St. Pius X #1827, Waubay, Iowa, celebrated its 65th Anniversary with Mass and a luncheon. Among those attending were National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson (Brenda's mother Loretta Dylla was a member of St. Pius) and South Dakota State Regent Michele Sage. During the ceremonies 65-year member Mary Bierschbach gave remarks and was awarded her 65th year membership pin. Pat Bierschbach was given her 60th pin for her 61 years of court membership. Louise Burns and Adeline Tracy were acknowledged for 50 years and 65 years respectively but could not attend and received their pins later. Court members can be seen as they gathered for a photo.



### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY FOR WASHINGTON COURT

Court Caruana #906, Yakima, Washington, honored its 100 years with Pentecost Sunday Mass celebrated by their Court Chaplain. A reception followed offering parishioners gallon sized Ziplock bags prepared by court members with items such as new socks, sanitation wipes, pop top soup, granola bars and a personal note of encouragement for homeless individuals. Attendees can be seen in the photo with their gift Ziplock bags.



### SEVENTY-FIVE YEAR MILESTONE IOWA COURT

Court St. Maria Goretti #1545, McGregor, Iowa, celebrated its 75th anniversary. Seen at the joyous occasion are Iowa State Regent Brenda Vore, Immediate Past State Regent Suzanne Torrey, Financial Secretary Phoebe Johnson, Vice Regent Betty Heins, District Deputy Dorothy Wille, Secretary Mary Pat Voss, Regent Janet Happel and First Vice State Regent Julie Marlow.



### NORTH CAROLINA COURT CELEBRATES SEVENTY YEARS

Court Msg. Michael A. Irwin, #1704, New Bern, North Carolina, gathered to celebrate their 70th anniversary. "The afternoon began with a special Mass with CDA members serving as Eucharistic Ministers, Greeters, Lectors, and a Knights of Columbus Honor Guard," Gloria Kelly said, "A lovely luncheon followed with special guests including Knights of Columbus officers and members of our North Carolina State Board. We were honored to have National Regent-Elect Essie Walker as our Guest Speaker. Special shout out to Cathy DeLuca and her committee for chairing this memorial celebration. Our Court is looking forward to another 70 years of Unity and Charity!" Attendees can be seen in the photo beaming bright anniversary smiles.



### TWENTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR CALIFORNIA COURT

Surrounded by festive purple and white balloons and wearing bright smiles, members of Court St. Joachim #2553, Madera, California, pause for a photo during their 20th Anniversary Celebration.



### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR NORTH CAROLINA COURT

Court Father Tracy #2121, Bowman, Rhame and Scranton, North Dakota, honored their 50th Anniversary with Court Chaplain Father Ben Franchuk celebrating Mass followed by a luncheon and program. North Dakota State Regent Deb Johnson presented Charter Members with Award Certificates. Also attending were guest Courts Mother of Perpetual Help #2148, Belfield, and Court St. Terese #958, Williston. Pictured at the celebration, first row, Chaplain Fr. Ben Franchuk, Diana Silha, Betty Pearson, Louise Hilton, Sandy Caron and Ann Walby. Second row, Recording Secretary Carol Foss, Rita Septon, Treasurer Jane Nelsen, Berna Hendrickson, Evelyn Wahl, Bea Vander, Donna Manolivits, Bonnie Mrnak, Amy Burke and Financial Secretary Susan Hinek. Third row, Vice Regent Codie West, Felise LaFlamme and Rose Berquist. Fourth row, Charter Members Lenore Burke, Regent Terry Walter and Agnes Kitzan.



### TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Court Our Lady of Charity #2115, Dayton, Texas, celebrated their 50th Anniversary with Mass celebrated by Father Peter Nguyen followed by lunch at a local restaurant. Attending were Regent Genevieve Ubnoskye, Vice Regent Sherren Drake, Recording Secretary Maddy Taplin, Financial Secretary April Watson, Treasurer Sharon Gray, members Nancy Devlin, Doris Stark, Joan Richard-Smith, JoAnn Taylor, Tammy Rivers, Lupe Cabrera, Leora Boullion, Anne Prokosch and Lydia Stewart.



### 75TH ANNIVERSARY FOR TEXAS COURT

Court Queen of Angels #1538, Wallis, Texas, celebrated 75 years of CDA. The event featured recognition of members and student contest winners, an exhibit of historic court records and scrapbooks, and a "photo arch." Over 100 people attended, including both living Charter Members Ann Marek and Virginia Verm (seen in the photo) and guests Texas State Regent Mary Jane Albert, former Chaplain Deacon Jerome Losack Sr., District 28 Deputy Cynthia Grigar and officers of Courts #1616, Sealy, and #2607, Frydek.



### SOUTH DAKOTA COURT CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Court Our Lady of the Rosary #2560, Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, celebrates its 20th Anniversary with a membership of 40. Regent Jami Wermers explains. "Small but mighty, we are blessed with many energetic members who want to serve the community. We have completed many service projects and helped many organizations in area over the years, but we want to focus on one of our larger ongoing service projects. For ten years our members have been gathering in the basement of our parish, in a small kitchen, to prepare meals for the Warming Shelter in Sioux City. We prepare a meal for the residents once a week from approximately Halloween through Easter, serving 80 to 120 people at each meal and strive to make a wholesome, delicious, homemade meal for them and they really do appreciate them! Along with the weekly meal, we serve the Shelter with another service project. A local hotel donates their king size sheets to us, and we then must cut them down and re-sew them to fit the single size beds at the shelter and who doesn't like clean sheets?" Members serving, first row, left to right, past member JoAnn Clemens and JoAnn Billing; second row, left to right, Diana Twidwell, Mary Parker, Jami Wermers, Brenda Hough. Third row, left to right: Margaret Holland, Shelly Gerkin, Susan Danielson and Beth Harris.



### CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS AT SOAR! BANQUET

Many Catholic Daughters attended the annual SOAR! (Support our Aging Religious) Awards Banquet in New York City (SOAR! is a National Project, for whom the Catholic Daughters provided seed money when SOAR! was established). During the festivities National Regent Susan Moné stepped to the podium and presented a \$10,000 donation check to SOAR! President Sister Kathleen Lunsmann, IHM, who said, "When the Catholic Daughters arrive at the SOAR! event each year, it's a sure sign that the fun is about to begin! The joyful spirit of the Catholic Daughters spreads among the crowd, and your warmth shows how much you care about the mission of SOAR! You are an important part of the SOAR! family, and I am so grateful for you!" After the banquet ended, the Catholic Daughters gathered for the photo.



### CATHOLIC EXTENSION SPIRIT OF FRANCIS AWARD

Catholic Extension, a Catholic Daughter National Charity, recently held its 11th Annual Spirit of St. Francis New York Award Banquet and was kind to extend an invitation to the Catholic Daughters. Father Jack Wall, Catholic Extension president, said, "Catholic Extension Society's mission to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities among the poor in the poorest regions of America is made possible with the generous support of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. God bless your good work and thank you for partnering with us!" In the photo, Father Jack, left, with Sean Patrick O'Malley, OFM, presents the St. Francis Award to Mario J. Paredes, Chief executive Officer of SOMOS Community Care and President of the International Academy of Catholic Leaders.

Oklahoma ~ State Regent: Jo Ella Newbury

*"Embracing all with love,  
service and spirit"*

Colorado ~ State Regent: Barb Ward

*"Blessed are the Peace Makers."  
Matthew 5:9*



Catholic Sisters, Brothers  
and Priests have made  
a lasting impact on our lives.



***Now it's our turn to help them.***



*Make your year-end gift and support  
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*Every gift honors the dedication  
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#### ARKANSAS COURT HONORS MEMBERS

Court Our Little Flower #2287, Little Rock, Arkansas, acknowledged the loyalty and longtime membership of Virginia Beck, Annie Reyes and Carol Sullivan. "These three Catholic Daughters serve as an inspiration to other court members," Gretchen Zell said. "Their dedication and enthusiasm have been instrumental to the Court's success." Virginia Beck can be seen in the photo with her son, Dr. David Beck.



#### STATE REGENT VISITS WASHINGTON COURT

Washington State Regent Theresa Trujillo can be seen with Donna June Kellams, Regent of Court Madonna of the Valley #2556, Spokane, Washington, during Theresa's visit to the court for their March 8th Monthly Meeting.



#### DEACON HONORED BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Members of Court Compton #942, Compton, California, and juniors from JCDA Court Mother Lupita, Court Chaplain Fr. Gilberto Rodriguez, Parochial Vicar Fr. Cleopas Nsom and friends gathered at Our Lady of Victory Church for a dinner to honor Deacon Chukwuma Philip Anale. "We congratulated him on his July 6th ordination as a Deacon," Regent Yvette Mandard said. "We offered our support and prayers as he continues his journey to the priesthood with the Missionary Servant of the Most Holy Trinity in Columbia." Deacon Philip was presented with a CDA stole that belonged to National Chaplain Fr. Erik Villa. Attendees take a break from the festivities for the photo.



#### DEACON PRESENTS AT LOUISIANA COURT

Court Regina Coeli #2063, Baton Rouge, welcomed guest speaker Deacon Michael Parker from the Baton Rouge Vagabond Missions. "Deacon Parker provided comprehensive information about this ministry, which operates in the Sacred Heart and Capitol High School regions and focuses on supporting underserved youth," Regent Loretta Britt said. "The mission offers opportunities for young people aged 14-21 to avoid street life and gang involvement. They provide a safe environment for conversation, fellowship, food, worship and Bible study. These simple acts of security exemplify the love of Christ through His followers. Members of the mission embody the hands and feet of Jesus, inspiring youth to engage constructively within the community. Deacon Parker's message truly captured the hearts of our members!" Deacon Parker can be seen in the photo during his presentation.

*Illinois ~ State Regent: Chantal Manhart*

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*



### NEW OFFICERS FOR IOWA COURT

Court St. Anthony #330, Council Bluffs, Iowa, announced its new officers. They are pictured, left to right, District Deputy Terri Dynek, Treasurer Kathi Markel, Recording Secretary Dola Mehlsling, Financial Secretary Mariann Hilderbrand, Regent Brenda Dresen and Vice Regent Matalyn Sebetka.



### MONTANA ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS

The Montana State Board installed new officers, seen in the photo in festive dress for State Convention fun night, left to right, Second Vice National Regent Nancy Bambenek, First Vice State Regent Stephanie Bearden, State Treasurer Gale Kreitzberg, Immediate Past State Regent Patty Kepp, State Regent Jo Ann Harper and State Secretary Darcie Huppert.



### NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED BY NEW MEXICO COURT

Court St. Helen of the Cross #2435, Portales, New Mexico, installed new members, including their youngest member Sarah Ortega who was honored to have multiple generations of family members with her to share the celebration. From left to right (Aunt) Neva Ortega, (Cousin) Veronica Cordova, (Aunt) Penny Ortega, (Grandmother) Cindy Ortega and (Aunt) Mable Romero who passed away.



### PENNSYLVANIA COURT HONORS PAST CHAPLAIN

Members of Court Immaculate Conception #2454, Clarion, Pennsylvania, placed A memorial leaf on the Tree of Hope at the Garden of Hope located at the Clarion Cancer Center in memory of Past Court Chaplain Rev. B. LaMounte Sayers. Court members are pictured at the Garden of Hope.



### TEXAS COURT PRESENTS MEMBERSHIP PINS

Court Our Lady of the Skyways, #2006, Irving, Texas, presented membership pins at their June meeting, including four 55-year pins, a 35-year pin and 25-year pin. Pictured left to right, Elena Blake - 55 years; Edith Vita - 55 years; Norma Quintanilla - 55 years; Joyce Pierce - 35 years; and JoAnne Dreyer - 55 years. Not pictured, Vickie Keller - 25 years. "Thank you, ladies," Recording Secretary Shirley Miller said, "for your years of service."



### COR CHRISTI SUPPORTED BY WASHINGTON STATE

The Washington State Court supports Cor Christi, a program that fulfills the Vatican's new requirement for a "propaedeutic phase" (preparatory phase) as men begin seminary. Cor Christi is part of Bishop White Seminary in Spokane. Washington State Regent Thereasa Trujillo was invited to represent the State Court at the Rector Hail and Farewell ceremony at Gonzaga University. Pictured with Thereasa is exiting rector the Very Reverend Daniel Barnett.

Florida ~ State Regent: Luisa Long

**"Rejoice in hope, be patient in change, always in prayer." Romans 12:12**



### CENTENARIAN HONORED BY TEXAS COURT

"Ms. Kathleen Ernster celebrated 100 years of a beautiful life in July," Joyce Strauss of Court St. Michael #347, Cuero, Texas, said. "She was honored with a cake and punch reception after 5pm Mass, hosted by our court and the St. Michael's Altar Society of Cuero. Kathleen, a true pilar of our community, has been a treasured member of our court for over 80 years. In addition, she is a dedicated supporter of St. Michael's Catholic School and was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Most Reverend Bishop Brendan Cahill. We give thanks for the long and fruitful life of Ms. Ernster and pray that the Lord's blessings will continue to be upon her. Happy Birthday, Ms. Ernster!" Kathleen can be seen in the photo.

*Montana ~ State Regent: Jo Ann Harper*

**"God doesn't give us what we can handle, God helps us handle what we are given."**



### JCDA COURT MEMBERS GRADUATE

Graduating high school seniors, members of JCDA Court Daughters of Grace, El Dorado, Arkansas, can be seen in the photo with Arkansas State Chaplain Father Edward D'Almeida, following the Senior Mass. Pictured left to right, Janelle Drummond, Father D' Almeida, Alex Rudolph and Ashlyn Rogers.



### IOWA COURT ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

Court Ave Maria #302, Des Moines, Iowa, announced two court scholarship winners, seen in the photo: Lillian Westhoff, left, studying at Iowa State University, and Lilly Calvert, right, enrolled at the University of Kansas. "The scholarships this year were given in recognition of the dedication and generosity of Robert and Michelle Tietjen," Recording Secretary Rosie O'Haver said. "Michelle was a Past Regent and longtime member of our court. Congratulations to our two young winners!"

Virginia ~ State Regent: Chris Lippman

*"All things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23*



### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED BY PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Congratulations to Laila Geary, recipient of Court Annuciata #260, Connellsville, Pennsylvania, for her Scholarship Award. Laila's selection was based on academic excellence and service to her church, school, and community. Pictured with Laila are Regent Carmalee Porter and Rev. Edwin Rubido.



### EDUCATION CONTEST BY IOWA COURT

Court St. Katherine #266, Earling, Iowa, held an education contest for students and members of the court. Awards were given for first, second and third place to fourth and fifth graders from Shelby County Catholic Schools. Pictured are winners and Contest Chairwomen, front row, left to right, Sam Erlbacher, Brayden Kenkel, Paxton Schwarte, Sophia Kelly and Cash Reinig. Back row, Marilea Bruck and Maribeth Zimmer.

Arkansas ~ State Regent: Judi Ostergaard

*"You are my hope, Lord; my trust, God, from my youth." Psalms 71:5*



### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED BY IOWA COURT

Court of Our Lady of LaSalette #1585, Milford, Iowa, presented a scholarship to Jocelyn Heller, a graduating senior and parishioner of St. Joseph's Church. Jocelyn can be seen in the center of the photo with Regent Deb Bode, left, and Father David Hermann, right.



### NEW YORK COURT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Court Holy Rosary #2341, Greenwood Lake, New York, is proud to announce that this year's winner of their \$500 Scholarship is Bailie Frey. Bailie is a Lay Reader at Holy Rosary parish. As her senior project she organized a golf outing for "Tunnels to Towers" that raised over \$10,000. Bailie will attend Sacred Heart University where she is enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Pictured with Bailie is Regent Regina Pinglora.



### MAY CROWNING FOR MINNESOTA COURT

Court St. Joan of Arc # 1291, Marshall, Minnesota, celebrated May Crowning with the Holy Redeemer School, first through eighth grade. Court Publicity Chairman Margie Dahl explains. "The school had third and fourth grade students place floral bouquets in a large basket in front of the Statue of Blessed Mary. A boy and girl then crowned the Blessed Mother Mary Statue with a floral wreath. The students formed a huge circle (seen in the photo) to pray the Rosary, each praying the Hail Mary. We had five Catholic Daughters volunteer to say the Our Father prayer. Reverend Dennis Labat gave the opening prayers, Anna Lenz, the music teacher played piano while Quinton Bronsvold began the ceremony by singing 'Ave Maria' and closed with the song, 'Immaculate Mary!' The whole school body attended along with many family members and Holy Redeemer parishioners. A very special day indeed!"



### SCHOLARSHIP WINNER AT NEBRASKA COURT

Natalia Wiezorek was the winner of the \$250 Scholarship from Court Our Lady of Fatima #1549, North Platte, Nebraska. Natalia, who can be seen in the photo, is a Senior at St. Patrick's Catholic School in North Platte.



### SCHOLARSHIP AWARD BY NEW YORK COURT

Members of Court of the Assumption #690, Maybrook, New York, attended the awards ceremony at Valley Central High School. "Each year we offer a \$100 Math Scholarship in Memory of our Former Regent Marie Marano," explained Recording Secretary Darlene Raessler. "This year's recipient was Amanda Krause, who was also the Salutatorian of her class." Pictured left to right, Darlene Raessler, Award Recipient Amanda Krause and Financial Secretary Sandy Kratz.



### PENNSYLVANIA COURT HONORS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

Allie DiLollo, a graduating Senior at Notre Dame High School in Easton, was selected by the Notre Dame Faculty as being outstanding in her class, demonstrating the qualities of loyalty and charity. Court Easton #358, Easton, Pennsylvania, made a surprise presentation to Allie before Mass at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church. Presenting, left to right, Financial Secretary Pat Bleam, Kathleen Finkbeiner, Regent Chris Curto, Deb Starace, Allie DiLollo, Eileen Yanno and Sally Lerch.



### CONTEST WINNER ANNOUNCED BY WISCONSIN COURT

Vaida Mechelke, right, receives her Education Contest Award from Kathy Lesniak, Education Chair of Court St. Rose #1062, Wausau, Wisconsin, for her first place Computer Art entry. Vaida is a fifth-grade student at St. Mary's School at Marathon. Congratulations, Vaida!



### TEXAS STATE AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

The Texas State Court awarded Yoakum High School graduate Leah Muenich a memorial scholarship of \$1,000. Leah also received a scholarship from Court Our Lady of #206, Yoakum, Texas. Leah is a parishioner of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yoakum. She is the daughter of Lance and Desiree Muenich and the granddaughter of Lillian Muenich. In the photo, Scholarship Chair Terri Dieringer presents the award to Leah.

Wisconsin ~ State Regent: Bernice Lansing

*"Refresh my heart in Christ."*  
Philemon 1:20

Arizona ~ State Regent: Lynn Wilson

*"With God all things are possible."*  
Matthew 19:26

# A YEAR OF DAILY OFFERINGS: GIVING YOUR LIFE TO GOD ONE DAY AT A TIME

By Fr. James Kubicki, S.J.

(Ignatius Press, San Francisco, California, 2024)



Reviewed by  
Peggy Eastman  
Past National SHARE Editor

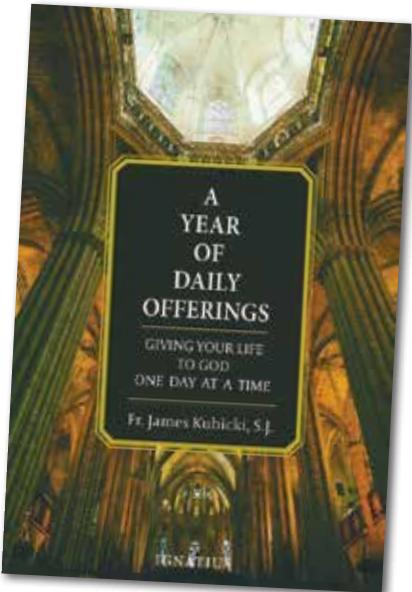
I was looking for a better way to organize my daily prayer time when I opened this gem of a book. Based on the liturgical calendar and inspired by Ignatian spirituality, this book offers a helpful prayer structure for each day of the year. To write it, Father Kubicki has drawn on his experience giving two-minute daily reflections on Relevant Radio.

Ordained a Jesuit priest in 1983, Father Kubicki was the national director of the Apostleship of Prayer (now the Pope's worldwide Prayer Network) from 2003 to 2017. He currently serves as a spiritual director at Saint Francis de Sales Seminary in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and leads retreats and parish missions.

Each day follows an appealing format. The author lists the special theological significance of the day, if any; gives a short discourse to focus our minds on Jesus; offers a daily prayer; includes a daily word; and then invites an evening review to help us gauge how well we lived our faith that day.

For example, September 8 lists the Nativity of Mary at the top of the page; gives an excerpt from St. Alphonsus Liguori on Mary as the sinless precursor of Christ bringing joy to the world; includes a prayer from Pope Benedict XVI asking Mary to help us become patient, humble and courageous, as she was; lists a daily word, "Here I am, Lord!"; and gives an evening review posing this question, "How did God bless others through me?"

January 17 lists St. Anthony (251-356) at the top; gives a short description of St. Anthony's life and his faith journey; gives a short prayer/meditation from this saint on the importance of seeking heavenly blessings, such as love and prudence, and stressing his emphasis on giving up material things; offers a daily word, "I give, and I find treasure in heaven;" and ends with an evening review, "What did I give and what treasure did I find today?"

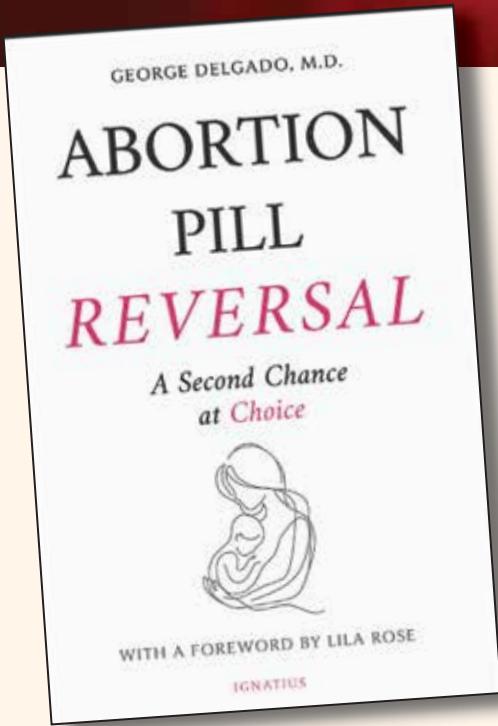


When I read the entry for September 18, I learned about St. Joseph Cupertino, a Franciscan priest who died at age 60 in Italy in 1663. Joseph was born in a stable and grew up in poverty. What is especially intriguing about him is that he was forgetful and clumsy, with poor work skills – far from the kind of person who studies hard and is gifted intellectually. As a young person Joseph earned the nickname "the Gaper," because he wandered around with his mouth open. He was prone to trances and levitations; he was named the patron saint of pilots, aircraft crews and air travelers. Despite his shortcomings, Joseph was devoted to Jesus and Mary; at their very names or sight of their statues he would enter into a mystical trance. The daily word for this day is "Let go and let God." St. Joseph Cupertino was apparently very good at letting go and giving himself to God, and this gives hope to those who feel inept and lacking in special skills. The evening review for this day is, "How was I called to surrender?" St. Joseph Cupertino surrendered all to God.

Reading from this book day by day is like having a spiritual director on paper at the elbow. Father Kubicki is a kind, encouraging friend who gently guides and nudges us in our prayer journeys. It is a gift to know that we can pick up the book and look for a particular day that means something very special to us, such as an anniversary, birthday or the death of someone dear to us. It is also a gift to learn about people and saints we may not know much about, thanks to the author's extensive research, or to contemplate a new spiritual insight as a result of one of the readings.

In his introduction, the author reminds us that the most valuable thing we have is time. He states that the book is designed to help us use our time to renew our daily offering of prayer one day at a time. Our time spent with this book will be time well spent. 

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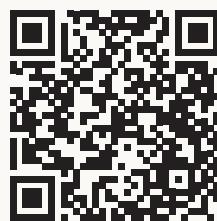
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