

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

NATIONAL QUARTERLY



National Headquarters

10 West 71st Street

New York, NY 10023

(212) 877-3041

FAX (212) 724-5923

EMAIL: cdofanat1@aol.com

cdaroster@aol.com

www.catholicdaughters.org



July 2025

A Message from

Susan Moné

National Regent



Much has happened in the past months since the last quarterly. We prayed for Pope Frances during his final weeks and days as the Shepherd of our Catholic Church. On April 21st, Easter Monday, Pope Frances journeyed home to the Lord that he's served faithfully. May he rest in eternal peace. Then in early May, we all waited and watched to see white smoke from the chimney of the Vatican. That smoke appeared on the second day of the conclave, May 8, 2025, and the world was in awe as it was announced that the 267th Pope was elected, chose the name, Pope Leo XIV, and was from the United States. Please pray daily for our new Pope as he leads our Catholic Church. One of the Pope's favorite daily prayers is the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel which was written in 1884 after a vision of evil spirits attempted to destroy the Catholic Church.

From March to June, National Board members attended and supervised 30 State Conventions. I am so proud of the great job they did at these conventions across the USA. And I want to say a special Thank You to the State Boards who worked hard to host their conventions where we prayed together, worked together and laughed together. We met new friends and renewed old friendships. At these conventions we instituted our new ceremonial dress of black/white and you are the first State Board to be Installed and presented your medallions. Also, National Board members and DD's wore their medallions. After many frustrating months of delays that were out of our control, I am excited to announce that finally Local court medallions are available through our CDA store.

Congratulations to our new State Officers and thank you for saying "Yes, Lord!" You will be in my daily prayers as you lead your state to be the best Catholic Daughters you can be. Keep your focus on our motto "Unity and Charity" and practice it in your meeting rooms with your fellow CDA sisters and in all that you do

Continued

Continued from previous page

as you make a difference in the lives of those in need. Many of you remember the phrase “WWJD - What Would Jesus Do?”. Well with Mary as our exemplar, we can change the praise to “WWMD – What Would Mary Do?”. Keep her present at every meeting and event you hold and as you go out to minister to others. How will you act when you have Mary walking beside you?

As we all start back this fall, I pray that it will be a successful, and fruitful year ahead. Included in this quarterly are all the Circle of Love and contest forms. The forms will also be on our website for you to copy. Don't forget the quarterly membership contest. Your court could be the next winner. First winners are, 1st place \$100 Court #2399 Our Lady of the Mystical, 2nd place Court #1962 \$75 Annunciation, and 3rd place \$50 Court #2690 St. Peter the Apostle. Six courts received Certificates of Recognition, Court #1248 St. Anthony, Court #2650 Ave Maria, Court #368 Sancta, Court 1372 Regina Pacis, and Court 322 Immaculate Conception. Congratulations to all these courts for their work in helping their courts grow. So, get busy so your court name will be a winner next time. Your court wins twice, the monetary prize and new members for your court. It's a win win! And a chance to win a trip to the Grande Ole' Lady is back for you and 4 BFF's! The last winner and her friends had a wonderful time in the Big Apple. Will you be next?

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

*Blessings,
Susan Moné
National Regent*

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COURTS

IA002819 Saint Mother Teresa

Instituted April 3, 2025
Regent Patrice Cronin
718 S Main Street
Holstein IA 51025
Phone # (712) 251-8328
Email jpcronin1972@gmail.com

MD002821 Divine Mercy

Instituted May 25, 2025
Regent Sherita Thomas
6209 Seton Hills Lane
Gwynn Oak MD 21207
Phone # (410) 504-9080
Email mrssheritathomas@gmail.com

TX002820 Saint Clare's Vineyard

Instituted May 3, 2025
Regent Kathryn Gleghorn
3212 Fannin Lane
Grapevine TX 76092
Phone # (817) 458-2451
Email kdagleghorn@gmail.com

Congratulations



**Double Congratulations
For our National Chaplain
Fr. John Erick Villa
Became a Citizen of the United States of America
and
July 1st Fr. Erick became the Rector of the
Cathedral of Christ the Light in the Diocese of Oakland, CA**

Busy And Blessed, I Am!

As I write this article, I am enroute to Rome to attend the Jubilee of Priests, with three other Filipino priests from the Diocese of Oakland. We have planned this almost as soon as the Jubilee Year was declared by Pope Francis last year, and the different groups identified. As a green card holder since 2020, every time I visit other foreign countries, I almost always had to secure a travel visa. So, knowing that this planned trip to Rome will be special, and potentially bring thousands and thousands of pilgrims all over the world, I immediately tried to secure the requirements for a Schengen visa, including an appointment for a personal appearance at a designated consulate office in San Francisco. It is a process – as some of you perhaps may know from experience, but definitely something that I initiated because I really wanted to visit Rome for the Jubilee.



Then things got a little busy with Christmas, the new year, the Lenten season, and the first communion Masses, not to mention the various parish and diocesan events we had the last six months, including my thanksgiving dinner I hosted last April to celebrate my 43rd birthday, 9th sacerdotal anniversary and 5 years in the parish, the CDA Convention in California, and the Closing Mass of the National Eucharistic Revival Pilgrimage from Indianapolis to Los Angeles on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi – I did not realize that I have not heard back from the consulate office about a confirmed appointment for my travel visa until about a month ago – indicating that June 13 is the earliest they schedule me. When I got the appointment date, I told myself, I will still be able to make it, considering my trip will be not be until June 24. (I know, it is a little tight, but the Lord and Our Lady did the same thing for my trip to Lisbon in 2023 to attend World Youth Day – I was at the consulate office 3 days before my scheduled flight!)

I never doubted, not to a single moment, that I would make it to Rome. I know it will happen, God willing! And the Lord and Our Lady definitely outdid themselves, as it were! How? Sometime in early May, I received a letter from USCIS informing me of my scheduled interview for naturalization in two weeks upon receipt of the notice! So, I reviewed the interview questions and internalized the responses, so when I took the examination, I passed it; and then 3 weeks after, I was already scheduled to do my oath taking! In less than 6 weeks, from a green card holder, I became a naturalized US citizen! Thanks be to God!

And are you ready for this? The same day I took my oath as a US citizen, I got my US passport – allowing me to travel visa-free to Rome to attend the Jubilee of Priests!!!

Amazing, right? But beyond amazing, the Lord is in always control! I am excited to explore Rome with my fellow priests, visit the sacred sites and pray at the Holy Doors – in thanksgiving for these blessings, and the prayers and support of so many! I am looking forward to concelebrate at the Mass to be presided by Pope Leo during this Jubilee of Priests, and I understand that there will be ordinations within the same Mass on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

And in the middle of all these blessings and milestones is the announcement from His Excellency Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ, the Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, that effective July 1, I will be assigned to the Cathedral of Christ the Light. I leave Saint Raymond with a heart filled with both sadness and joy: sadness because I will miss everyone dearly; and joy because of all the memories I carry with me in the next chapter of my priestly ministry

At the tailgate/picnic farewell party hosted by the community recently, one parishioner commented: “I am thankful that Father Erick is leaving (long pause) ... because that only meant that he was at one time here with us!” And that resonated in my heart, along with all the other warm thoughts and fervent prayers from everyone

Continued

Continued from previous page

– I am grateful for the 5 BLESSED years at Saint Raymond's; and I am humbly saying "YES" to the Bishop for the mission in the Mother Church of the Diocese.

My installation as Cathedral Rector is scheduled on August 14, 6:00 PM. It is a holy day of obligation – the vigil Mass of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother. More details are forthcoming, including the RSVP link.

My dear daughters, enjoy summer with families and friends, and let us always keep each other in prayers

Father John Erick Villa, National Chaplain

Victory Junction

Victory Junction, designated as a National Charity, is situated on eighty-four acres in the upper hills of Randleman, North Carolina. This new charity was introduced to members attending the State and Territorial Officer's Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Victory Junction is a Serious Fun Children's Network that serves children dealing with serious medical conditions and chronic illnesses. The camp holds certification from Serious Fun, which sets specific standards for camper care. Families are served from all over the United States and some countries.

Victory Junction is connected to Adam Petty, son of Kyle Petty and the grandson of NASCAR driver Richard Petty. Adam continued the family tradition as a NASCAR driver. When not racing, Adam visited children in the hospital. He told his family that he wanted to open a camp where children could engage in typical activities and enjoy themselves. Unfortunately, Adam was killed in a race car accident before he could make his dream come true.

To honor Adam's memory, the racing community, friends, and the Petty family united to create a place where seriously ill children could enjoy the joys of childhood and briefly set aside their illness. Attending camp at Victory Junction helps children to develop independence and self-esteem.

The highest quality of care is not only given to the children but also to all family members. The parents and all siblings are allowed to attend the weekend Family Program. Each family is assigned a Camp Counselor upon their weekend stay. As a weekend counselor, I personally experience the expression on the children's face when they get the opportunity to ride a horse, go bowling, ziplining, go boating or fishing for the first time. Having a Spiritual Center on site is vital, and every child receives a teddy bear and blanket to take home. Let us keep making a difference for children.

Please visit the Victory Junction site for more information on the program. info@VictoryJunction.org.

Essie Walker

National Regent-Elect

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Let Your Light Shine

- Supplies:** Birthday candle, ornamental candle, scented candle, tall taper candle, bent candle, everyday candle, candle with a wick on each end, Christmas candle
- Leader:** As we begin a new Catholic Daughter year in our courts, let us be of service to those who are most in need. As we pray together today, let us reflect on the type of light we may be spreading.
- Candle #1:** Birthday candle – by itself, it does not make a very big light, but with several together, the candles make a lot of light. Alone, we may seem insignificant, but together with other members, much can be accomplished.
- Candle #2:** Ornamental candle – is used for decoration, rarely lit, and gives off no light. We may be like an ornamental candle, if we attract attention, but rarely do much or give off light. A little hard work soon finishes us off and renders us lightless. Candle #3 Scented candle – when lit, will fill the room with an aroma that everyone can enjoy. One person willing to give the aroma of a helping-hand, can affect an entire group, and much can be accomplished.
- Candle #4:** Tall taper candle – is used for special occasions. It stands tall and burns beautifully but only appears occasionally. This reminds us of the special occasion workers, seen only when special interests bring them to life, but are not around for everyday work.
- Candle #5 :** Bent candle – seems to have swayed with the wind. Like this candle, we may feel the effects of pressure or disappointment. A little straightening can bring about renewal so the light will be more effective.
- Candle #6:** Everyday candle – is the one we reach for when we need a dependable light. This candle is always ready to supply our needs when called upon. There are some members that are always dependable, ready to lend a hand, and shine their light brightly.
- Candle #7:** Wick on both ends candle – burns twice as fast. Like this candle, we also burn out twice as fast and can only get half as much done if we commit to too many projects at one time.
- Candle #8:** Christmas candle – so beautiful! Like this candle, some members come out of storage once a year and make a spectacular show for a brief period of time. Then, they return to the closet shelf and contribute nothing for another year.
- Leader:** Matt. 5:14-16 reads, “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” As a Catholic Daughter, how does your light shine?

State and Territorial Officers Conference

Recap by Tom Panas, National Public Relations Chairman

The Biennial State and Territorial Officers Conference was held from July 17-20 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. State and territorial officers, the National Board, court chaplains, spiritual advisors attended.

There were three active days of training, learning and networking. Presentations by National Board members included PowerPoint, spoken, humorous skits and recorded music.

Detailed information was given on each of the State Officer positions: State and Local Regent, State and Local Vice Regent, State Secretary, State Treasurer, and training District Deputies. Other topics included Basic Bylaws, the 1903 Society, Standing Rules, Membership, Ceremonials and many others.

Throughout, much knowledge and information pertinent to the officers was disseminated and discussed and the response was enthusiastic. It was very efficient, with the agenda not only being on time but sometimes ahead of schedule. Everything cannot be included so this article will attempt to convey glimpses and highlights.

National Regent Susan Moné noted how productive it was for state officers to socialize and connect. "It's very good bonding for officers of State Officers from around the country to be together. There is a great deal you can learn from one another about the Catholic Daughters and your specific positions."

Susan added that local court medallions are being sent out – "at last!" She apologized for the delay and explained there had been problems with the manufacturer. She thanked everyone for their patience.

National Regent-Elect Essie Walker announced that a new National Charity has been established: Victory Junction in North Carolina. Founded by the racing car Petty family, it is an 84-acre camp for children and teens ages 3 to 16 and a summer camp for ages 6 through 16. It contains a spiritual center, theater, tree house, body shop for cars, bowling, horseback riding, boating and fishing, a water park and Super Dome. The kids can also do Arts & Crafts and there is a chef on site. To learn more visit www.victoryjunction.org.

Later, discussing the Catholic Daughter National Project Habitat for Humanity, Essie said, "The cost of home construction is much higher than 20 years ago. Therefore, building a home for a family in need is more important than ever. We take this opportunity to ask you for your continuous help. Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love by sponsoring a Habitat Build. Right now, we have a little over \$19,000 in the Habitat Fund."

First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette showed characteristic fun and spiritual ebullience in their By Laws presentation with a skit in which she was joined by National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson and National Director and co-chair Susan Killian as wild west law enforcement, making By Laws fun.

Another fun skit was by Second Vice National Regent Nancy Bambenek for her presentation on State Secretaries. She dressed as Dolly Parton in the movie "Secretary 9:00 to 5:00" and was joined by her "sisters" National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson and National Director Barbara Wiechmann. Nancy asked for ideas from former CDA Secretaries in the audience.

In her Campus Courts presentation National Director Rita Carlson mentioned the Campus Court Mom Program, which offers prayers, gifts of appreciation, Mass blessings as exams begin during finals week and other forms of support. "It is our hope that when these young women leave their Campus Court they will continue as Catholic Daughters," Rita said. "And if there isn't a Campus Court where they're going then let's try to form one!"

Rita added, "there are four active courts now and I'm working on a fifth."

Continued

Continued from previous page

National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson gave an eloquent presentation on the 1903 Society whose purpose is to raise money to improve the CDA Headquarters building in New York City. Later, the California State Board announced, "We would like to donate a check for \$5,000 because we were so impressed with Brenda's 1903 Society presentation". Arizona State Board also presented National Regent Susan Moné a check for a 1903 membership in thanks to her for her continued inspiration to CDA.

While National Directors Yvette Griego and Rita Carlson were discussing the CDA Facebook page, it was exciting when First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette was able to take the conference live. For those who would like to start a Facebook page, Connie said, "when we started the Facebook Page there was an existing National Catholic Daughter page. Facebook would not delete it, so if you find yourself in that situation just start a new Facebook Page and don't worry about getting rid of the other one."

Explaining the CDA Disaster Fund, National Regent Susan Moné said, "I sent out a plea for assistance from Catholic Daughters for the disasters in Florida, Texas and California and thanks to your generosity we donated \$47,000 to each state, with \$5,000 coming from the general fund and the remainder from additional CDA generous donations. We also sent \$2,500 each to Nebraska and Arizona from the general disaster fund for fires damaging their church, and \$5,000 was sent to the San Antonio Diocese as a kickstart for the TX disaster and a plea was sent for additional donations. This is how we come together in Unity and Charity. I can't applaud you ladies enough."

National Directors Barb Wiechmann and Brenda West talked about the new Dress Code in their Ceremonials presentation: simple white blouses, no cleavage, sleeveless, tank tops, t-shirts. "Our dress must show respect of our Lord and the church," they said. "We need to follow the dress code -- this is what was voted on."

In her concluding remarks, National Regent Susan Moné thanked the Arizona State Board, National Office Manager Martha Hamboussi, Carmella (who was hospitalized during the Conference but is doing okay) for their assistance in preparing the Conference, and Louisiana Second Vice State Regent Adrienne Saucier for stepping up to help with technical aspects in Carmella's absence. To the state chaplains and Spiritual Advisors present she said "Thank you! Your being here is wonderful and a great show of support to your State Officers."

"We had a big empty chair here," Susan added. "Many of you knew Irene Gramza, one of the sweetest women God ever created. We were friends for 30 years. She left on Sunday from last year's Biennial Convention and on Tuesday was admitted to the hospital. The Lord decided it was time for her to go to heaven on Friday. She is truly missed."

"Last but not least is my awesome, awesome National Board," Susan said. (This was met with a standing ovation from the audience.) "These ladies work so hard; I give them an assignment and they run with it. They are a real blessing and real sisters to me. I love you all."

The Officers returned from the Conference nourished and educated and will be working hard to put the knowledge they acquired into action. Please wish them Godspeed for a wonderful two-year term!

Mark Your Calendar and Save the Date

Submitted by Essie Walker

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

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

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

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

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

There are several Local Museum’s

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

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

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

Stay tuned for more Convention information in the next Quarterly.

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

Win a Weekend at the Grand 'Ole Lady



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

Includes:

- 4 Days and 3 Nights Stay at the Grand Old Lady (Dorm Style) in NYC
- A Broadway ticket for each guest (up to \$200.00 each)
- A Travel Voucher for each guest (Up to \$500.00 each)
- A Food Voucher for each guest (Up to \$250.00 each)

Purchase entry by December 31, 2025

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

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

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

Download tickets at www.catholicdaughters.org

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

Stipulations:

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



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

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Phone

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

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

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

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



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

Name

Address

City/State/Zip Code

Phone

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

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

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

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

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Virtual Book Club

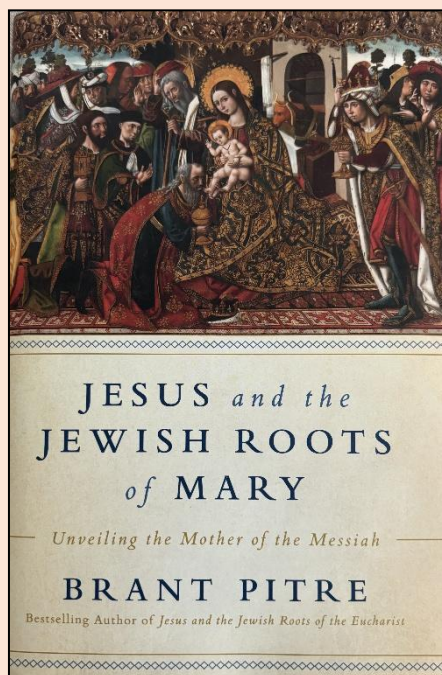
Join us in reading

“Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary’

Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah,” by Brant Pitre

Monday

September 15, 2025



**Every Monday
For
6-8 Weeks**

4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, 5:00 p.m. Mountain, 6:00 p.m. Central, 7:00 p.m. Eastern

For Zoom link or more information

RSVP to Susan Killian

susankillian@gmail.com • 909-519-3719

Facilitators: Fr. Erick Villa, Connie Dronette, Susan Killian

Here Ye! Hear Ye! Read All About It



Newsletter

Catholic Daughters are curious beings. They want to know what is going on in their world. Newsletters are a superb tool for dispersing CDA information to all court members. Whether written for a local, state, or national court, all newsletters describe past activities and announce future ones. For the members unable to attend meetings due to illness, being home-bound, or work or school obligations, a newsletter provides a way to stay in touch with the court. Newsletters can educate new members about CDA and inform veterans about changes. Courts share their fund-raising ideas, their celebrations, and their spiritual endeavors. Courts can brag about successes and provide suggestions for improvements.

When writing a newsletter, one must consider the audience. Who will read it, and what do they want to see in the publication? A good newsletter should include specific activities that courts have or will complete. Pictures are important. They attract one to the article, and who does not want to see photos of themselves or their friends? The articles should be kept succinct. Include information about all levels of the CDA organization – local, state, and national. Catholic Daughters worship and pray together, so include information about spiritual activities.

What other uses are there for the newsletter? They can be utilized as recruitment tools. Copies can be left in the church or distributed to the local parish women. A well-written newsletter can pique the interest of potential additions. Information about scholarships, pilgrimages, or activities in which everyone can participate might motivate involvement.

Catholic Daughters are energetic, prayerful, and determined. They give their hearts to the service of others. A newsletter should reveal this devotion to show each other and the world just how awesome CDA is. More than meetings and bake sales, “deeply spiritual, members share faith, love of God and a distinctly feminine spirituality alluded to by Pope John Paul II.” A newsletter should reflect these ideals. A good one will **educate** the readers, **promote** participation, and **encourage** inspiration.

The 2026 National Newsletter Contest will begin soon. If your court has a newsletter, please consider entering it into this contest. The winners will be announced at the 2026 National CDA Convention in Courville, Iowa. If your court does not currently have a newsletter, there is no better time to start one.

For information about newsletters, please contact National Director Karin Dudash at dudashcda@gmail.com.



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



What are we doing and Why?

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

When?

~ April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

~ July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

~ October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

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

~ First Place Prize - \$100.00

~ Second Place Prize - \$75.00

~Third Place Prize - \$50.00

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

Standing Rules

Standing rules are a set of guidelines used by our order to manage our court meetings. They are distinct from bylaws which are more foundational and address the core structure and purpose of the order. Standing rules are typically adopted by a majority vote and can be changed with the same level of formality as any other decision.

National, State and Local courts all have standing rules. At the start of each year (late summer or early fall) standing rules should be reviewed and talked about in your court. You may turn to the Tools of the Trade for help. For State Courts look in Section 4 -Attachment #12. For Local Courts look in Section 5 – Attachment #6. If you are in leadership, please don't take this task lightly. Give the standing rules adequate time for healthy discussion. Your effort and time will be rewarded down the road or at future meetings.

Examples of Standing Rules:

- The meeting date, time, and place
- Sponsor a pro-life activity
- Gifts to priests or visiting dignitaries
- Having a joint installation with other Courts

You might be a new court that has not had a need for standing rules but as you grow you will want them. Standing rules allows for continuity from board to board, year to year, regent to regent. Your court may need just one or two standing rules. A great start. Leadership, make it Happen!

In summary Standing Rules offer several advantages:

- Streamline decision-making process
- Ensure consistency
- Promote fairness by establishing clear guidelines for your court
- Reduce confusion
- Saves time
- Prevents disputes
- Transparency and accountability

Let's move the standing rules to the front of the burner, pile, heap or whatever you call it so court members will have more time for fellowship.

Nancy Bambenek

2nd Vice National Regent

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



10 WEST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10023
212-877-3041
(FAX) 212-724-5923
WWW.CATHOLICDAUGHTERS.ORG

September 2025

Worthy Circle of Love Chairman,

I want to personally thank you for accepting the challenge and the position of Local Court Chairman for the Circle of Love Program for 2024-2026.

Attached please find a copy of this year's forms. Please be sure to ask your State Regent for the name and address of the State Chairman if it is not already on the form.

Please note the following guidelines for reporting on these forms:

- You should file the report for the one-year period of February 1, 2025, to February 1, 2026.
- As court chairperson please select **ONE** outstanding or unique event in which your court participated in your specific area of the Circle of Love and send it to the state for consideration and recognition. Be sure to include a completed cover sheet, **"LOCAL Chairman to State Chairman."**
- In addition to mailing to the State Chairman, please keep a copy of the cover sheet and entry for your court files.

Please encourage your court to participate in your spoke of the Circle of Love Program.

Thank you for your dedicated service to our organization and to our Church through the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

In Unity and Charity,

Susan Moné
National Regent



Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
LEADERSHIP
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Local Court Chairman -- Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Title of the Project _____

Describe **fully ONE project** in the **Circle of Love** program for **Leadership** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



**Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®**

FAMILY

**Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026**

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Local Court Chairman --Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Title of the Project _____

Describe **fully ONE project** in the **Circle of Love** program for **Family** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
QUALITY OF LIFE
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ Number _____

Regent _____ Local Chairman _____

Number of Members _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Local Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Title of the Project _____

Describe **fully ONE project** in the **Circle of Love** program for **Quality of Life** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ Number _____

Regent _____ Local Chairman _____

Number of Members _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Local Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Title of the Project _____

Describe **fully ONE project** in the **Circle of Love** program for **Spiritual Enhancement** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
EDUCATION
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025– February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Local Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Title of the Project _____

Describe fully **ONE** project in the **Circle of Love** program for **Education** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



**Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
LEGISLATION
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026**

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Local Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Title of the Project _____

Describe **fully ONE project** in the **Circle of Love** program for **Legislation** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
YOUTH / JCDA
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Local Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to your State Chairman:

Part I: YOUTH

Title of the Project _____

Describe **fully ONE project** in the **Circle of Love** program for **Youth** done by your court this past year. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?



**Local Court Chairman to State Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
YOUTH / JCDA
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026**

Court Name _____ Number _____

Part II: JCDA

1. Does your court sponsor a Junior or Juniorette court?
2. If you answered no to the above question, are you planning to start one soon? Please include details.
3. If you answered yes, please answer the following questions.
4. What is the name of the Junior court and how many members are in the court?
5. What is the name of the Juniorette court and how many members are in the court?

Describe ONE outstanding project from the Junior or Juniorette Court. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?

Title of the Project _____

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



10 WEST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10023
212-877-3041
(FAX) 212-724-5923

WWW.CATHOLICDAUGHTERS.ORG

September 2025

Worthy Circle of Love State Chairman,

I want to personally thank you for accepting the challenge and the position of State Chairman for the Circle of Love Program for 2024-2026.

Attached please find a copy of this year's forms.

Please note the following guidelines for reporting on these forms:

- You should file the report for the two-year period of February 1, 2024, to February 1, 2026.
- As State chairman, please select **ONE** outstanding or unique report from your local courts in your specific area of the Circle of Love for recognition at the National Convention in July 2026. Please remember to include the 2025 winner when you judge the 2026 winner. Only one winner from each state will be accepted. Be sure to include a completed cover sheet, "**STATE CHAIRMAN to NATIONAL CHAIRMAN.**"
- In addition to mailing your report to the National Chairman, please keep a copy of the cover sheet and entry for your court files.

Thank you for your dedicated service to our organization and to our Church through the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

In Unity and Charity

Susan Moné
National Regent



**State Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®**

LEADERSHIP

**Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026**

Court Name _____ Number _____

Regent _____ Local Chairman _____

Number of Members _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date – April 1, 2026.

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to: Rosie Stockwell
315 Alamo St.
Edinburg, TX 78541

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.



**State Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®**

FAMILY

**Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026**

Court Name _____ Number _____

Regent _____ Local Chairman _____

Number of Members _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date – April 1, 2026.

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to: Barb Wiechman
28870 394th Blvd.
Armour, SD 57313

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.



State Court Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
QUALITY OF LIFE
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ Number _____

Regent _____ Local Chairman _____

Number of Members _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date – April 1, 2026.

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to: Mary Ann Kizer
213 Heartwood Cove
White Hall, AR 71602

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.



State Court Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024– February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date of April 1, 2026.

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to: Susan Killian
9389 Tangelo Ave.
Fontana, CA 92335

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.



State Court Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
EDUCATION
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date – April 1, 2026.

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to: Nancy Bambenek
P.O. Box 583
St. Charles, MN 55972

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman



State Court Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
LEGISLATION
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date – April 1, 2026.

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to:
Kathleen Grange
21 Meadow Woods Drive
Graniteville, VT 05654

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.



State Court Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
YOUTH / JCDA
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ **Number** _____

Regent _____ **Local Chairman** _____

Number of Members _____ **Email** _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

State Court Chairman: Please fill out this form (Print/Type) and mail to the National Chairman at the address below by the deadline date – April 1, 2026.

Part I: YOUTH

Title of the Project _____

Attach the local court project you found most impactful to this form.

Mail to: Karin Dudash
1705 Tyler St
Altus, OK 73521

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.



State Court Chairman to National Chairman
Catholic Daughters of the Americas®
YOUTH / JCDA
Circle of Love Reporting Form
February 1, 2024 – February 1, 2026

Court Name _____ Number _____

Part II: JCDA

6. Does your court sponsor a Junior or Juniorette court?
7. If you answered no to the above question, are you planning to start one soon? Please include details.
8. If you answered yes, please answer the following questions.
9. What is the name of the Junior court and how many members are in the court?
10. What is the name of the Juniorette court and how many members are in the court?

Describe ONE outstanding project from the Junior or Juniorette Court. What was the goal for the activity? How many were involved? What impact did the activity have on your court or parish?

Title of the Project _____

Mail to: Yvette Griego
1028 Diego Rd.
Santa Rosa, NM 88435
Due by April 1, 2026.

Please use the back of this page or additional sheets if necessary. Thank you for completing this report. We suggest that you keep a copy to pass on to the next chairman.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS®

Date: SEPTEMBER 2025

TO: STATE REGENTS, LOCAL COURT REGENTS, AND TERRITORIAL COURT REGENTS

FROM: NANCY BAMBENEK, NATIONAL EDUCATION CHAIR

2025-2026 SUBJECT: NATIONAL EDUCATION CONTEST

THEMES: The Least of These. Matthew 25:40 **OR** The Least of These: Lifting Others Up.

Each local court should make a very special effort to sponsor the EDUCATION CONTEST. The themes selected for the contest encourage lively imagination and freedom of thought when student talent and application go hand in hand. The contest enables students of our communities, schools, and CCD classes to compete and strive for awards while following certain fixed rules. The choice of the categories is:

ART ESSAY POETRY COMPUTER ART MUSIC PHOTOGRAPHY

The local court determines the number of awards to be presented to the first three winning entries in each division, within each category. Plan a special event and invite parents, teachers, and principals. Take a picture of the presentation, write an article, and send to your diocesan paper and National Share Magazine. Ask a representative from your local paper to be present for the awards ceremony. Bring a few membership applications and invite new members into your court.

- All entries in all categories are to reflect the chosen theme. There may be an excellent Art entry, but if it does not identify with the theme, it will not be a winner.
- All entries are to be the original imagination of the participant. He/she should not look at a picture, statue, building, etc. and draw from what he/she sees. **A participant needs to create an original idea for the entry.**
- All rules apply to Local, State and National entries. Local, state, and national education chairs and all judges are not eligible to enter this CDA contest. Local and state officers may enter the contest IF they are not education chairs.
- The Local Court's name, number, city, and state, as well as the Local Court Education Chairperson's name and address should be on both the individual contest information sheet (art, essay, poetry, computer art, music, and photography) **and** on the "2025-2026 Education Contest Entry Form " (Page 4) before contest information is distributed.
- All Local Courts under the jurisdiction of a State Court send first place winners to the State Education Chairperson, using the "State Court Education Contest Cover Sheet" (Page 5). **Ask your local court regent for the name of the State Education chairperson and insert that person's name on the bottom of the sheet. Only one first place winner per division, per category. Please do not send a first-place winner in each theme, as both will have to be disqualified. LOCAL COURTS: DO NOT SEND DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON, AS ENTRIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED.** If you have a State Regent, you have a State Court and a State Education chairperson, to whom the entries must be sent.
- **Local Courts NOT under the jurisdiction of a State Court (Territorial Courts):** Send only first place winners to the National Education Chairperson. Please do not send a first-place winner in each theme, as both will have to be disqualified. Type handwritten first place Poetry and Essay Contest entries before sending to National. Glue or tape "2024-2025 Education Contest Form "(Page 4) to back of typed copy. **DO NOT** use paper clip or staples.
- State Chairperson: **Type** handwritten first place Poetry and Essay Contest entries **before sending to National.** Glue or tape "2025-2026 Education Contest Entry Form "(Page 4) to back of typed copy then staple original entry to typed copy. **DO NOT** use paper clips.
- **Be sure all winning entries meet contest rules.**

PROCEDURES – 2025-2026 EDUCATION CONTEST --- NATIONAL --- STATE --- LOCAL LEVEL

SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

1. The State Regent appoints a State Chairperson of Education to manage this contest.
2. The Local Court Regent appoints a Chairperson of Education. The Chairperson should be selected because of her interest and enthusiasm for the program. It is most important that all chairpersons have a thorough understanding of the contest rules and desire to promote interest in the schools and CCD classes. The Regent gives **all** the contest material to the chairperson.
3. The Local Court Chairperson may make copies on white paper of **all** the 2025-2026 contest material for the schools. It is **important** to stress the fact that all rules must be followed, and the identification form properly completed. It is the **DUTY OF the CHAIRPERSON to check EACH entry BEFORE submitting entries for judging.**

DEADLINES

1. Entries being submitted to **LOCAL COURT** chairperson must be handed in or postmarked by date set by the Local Chairperson but no later than **February 1, 2026. Deadline should not be previous year.**
2. Local Deadline _____
3. Entries being submitted to **STATE COURT** chairperson must be postmarked **before:**
MARCH 1, 2026. States have the option of changing this date but keeping in the same year.
4. Entries being submitted to **NATIONAL** chairperson must be postmarked **before**
APRIL 1, 2026.

AWARDS AND JUDGING (Suggested rubric judging on all levels page 7)

1. **LOCAL COURTS:** The judges on the local level should be selected for their expertise in the various categories of the contest and are not Catholic Daughters nor close relatives of the entrants. Local Courts set and pay the judges' honoraria and the winning entry awards. Only ONE FIRST PLACE winning entry **in each division (not one per theme)** of the local Court level is to be forwarded to the State Chairperson of Education.
2. **STATE COURT LEVEL:** The State Court selects the judges (Not Catholic Daughters), sets, and pays the judges' honoraria and the winning entry awards. Only ONE FIRST PLACE winning entry in each division on the State level is forwarded to the National Chairperson of Education.
3. **NATIONAL LEVEL:** The judges (Not Catholic Daughters) are selected by National. Awards on the National level will be given to the state regents at the 2025 State Officers training in Phoenix.
4. Awards on the National level in each Division are as follows:

First Place: \$100.00

Second Place: \$50.00

Third Place: \$25.00

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure all entries have been judged at the **local and state levels before sending to National.** Do not mark on the entries. The Local Court Chairperson of Education is to use the "State Education Contest Cover Sheet" (Page 5) to submit FIRST PLACE winners to State. The State Chairperson of Education is to use the National Education Contest Cover Sheet (Page 6 ATTACHED) to submit FIRST PLACE winners on the state level to National.

NOTE: NO ENTRIES ARE TO BE FOLDED OR ROLLED. NEATNESS IS A KEY FACTOR IN JUDGING!

**Winners will be listed on the Catholic Daughters website after
August 20, 2026. www.catholicdaughters.org**

2025-2026 National Education Contest

Themes/Divisions/Categories/Rules

THEMES OF CONTEST: (Choose **One**) The Least of These. Matthew 25:40 **OR** The Least of These: Lifting Others Up.

Divisions & Categories: Note: Students may be Catholic and Non-Catholic

Division 1	Grades 4-5	Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art
Division 2	Grades 6-7-8	Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography
Division 3	Grades 9-10-11-12	Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography
Division 4	Adult CDA members	Poetry, Art, Photography

Rules: All entries must be of contestant's own imagination and creation

Essay: **Typed only**, not to exceed 450 words on one page; not front and back.

Poetry: Any style of poetry, typed, not to exceed eight (8) lines

Art: Size: 8 1/2 x 11 No Lettering (your art carries the message). Do not put your name on the Art. How the theme is carried out in Art will be part of the judging, in addition to artistic talent. Medium: Crayon, markers, ink, paints (watercolor, acrylic, oil), charcoal, pencil (black or colored), pastels (chalk) and duct tape. **No computer art and colored in.**

Computer Art: Size: 8 1/2" x 11" or 8" X 12", No Lettering. Art must be artist's own creation and should fill the majority of the page. NO clip art or images imported from web sites.

Music: Lyrics and notes must be on professional music score paper (melody, harmony, and accompaniment, all of which must be notated accurately), and **must be contestant's own creation**. Please use composition music paper **with** composer's name. CD or thumb drive (no Mp3, MIDI, or other electronic formats allowed) of the performance must accompany the entry using the music score paper and name on it. While the composition must be the contestant's own creation, the performer of the composition does not need to be the composer. No DVD.

Photography: Size 8" X 10" picture depicting the theme. Do not add matting. The contestant must have taken picture. May not be a computer downloaded image or a picture of a picture. Can be color or black and white. Cannot be a collage. **Cannot be a copy of a photography as it needs to be the photograph. Can have words in the photo.**

Judges will use rules of Clarity, Grammar, Spelling, Interpretation of Theme, and all peculiar rules in the categories listed above.

GENERAL RULES

- 1) Contestants may enter a Category only once but may submit entries in multiple categories. A local Catholic Daughters Court must sponsor contestants.
- 2) Entries on other themes or not conforming to the rules will be disqualified.
- 3) **Entries will not be returned.** All contest material becomes the property of the National Court with the right to display and/or publish any or all material.
- 4) Decisions of the judges will be final. Judges reserve the right to make no award in a Division or Category. Commercial entries will be disqualified. Judging will be based on the Rubric Scoring provided.
- 5) A **2025-2026** Entry Form must accompany each entry properly signed and completed. Names must be legible. Forms are to be glued or taped to back of entry, except for Music. **Music** entry forms to be put in plastic sleeve and CD or thumb drive with it.

DEADLINE: **Local Court Deadline is _____, Send your entry, complete with 2025-2026 Entry Form to the Local Court Contest Chairperson. If mailed, entries must be postmarked by _____.**

Awards: The one first place winning entry for each Category in each Division (**either theme, not both**) will be forwarded to the State Contest Chairperson and the winning entries at the State level will be forwarded to the National Education Contest Chairperson.

Awards at the local level will be determined by the local Court. Winning entry awards at the state level will be determined by the State Court. National Prizes for each Division are:

FIRST PLACE-\$100.00 SECOND PLACE-\$50.00 THIRD PLACE- \$25.00

2025-2026 Education Contest Entry Form

(Tape or glue this form to the back of your entry except for music.)

MUSIC NEEDS TO HAVE PLASTIC SHEET PROTECTOR WITH ENTRY FORM AND CD OR THUMB DRIVE W/NAME ON IT, SECURED AND MUSIC IN ANOTHER SHEET PROTECTOR. BOTH NEED TO BE SECURED.

Please type or print

Category: _____

Division: _____ Grade: _____

Theme: _____

Name:(Please Print)_____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Name of School (or Court if adult): _____

Signed Statement: This contest entry is my own creative work. I did not copy all or any part of this entry from any other person's work. I agree that if my entry is a National winner, it may be published by the National Court or put on its website.

Contestant's Signature: _____

DO NOT CUT OFF THE BOTTOM OF THIS SHEET!

Return to:

Name of Sponsoring Court: _____ No. _____

City of Sponsoring Court _____ State: _____

Name of Education Chairperson: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

This signed form MUST ACCOMPANY all contest entries and be fully, legibly completed. Do not fold or roll entries.

Note to Education Chairpersons: Please be sure to include your court name, number, city, and state as well as the name and address of the chairperson to whom the entries are to be returned to by the participant.

Winners will be listed on the Catholic Daughters website after August 20,2026.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas website: www.catholicdaughters.org

FOR USE BY LOCAL COURT EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS 2025-2026 STATE EDUCATION CONTEST COVER SHEET

FIRST PLACE WINNERS ON THE LOCAL LEVEL IN THE STATE EDUCATION CONTEST ARE:

CONTEST FIRST PLACE NAME OF SCHOOL STUDENT

ATTENDS NAME OF COURT FOR ADULT ENTRIES

ART

DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
DIVISION IV	_____	_____

POETRY

DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
DIVISION IV	_____	_____

ESSAY

DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____

COMPUTER ART

DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____

MUSIC

DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____

PHOTOGRAPHY

DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
Division IV	_____	_____

LOCAL COURT NAME: _____

NO. _____ **City** _____ **State** _____

LOCAL COURT EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

DATE: _____ **PHONE:** _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LOCAL COURT CHAIRPERSON OF EDUCATION AND SUBMITTED WITH THE FIRST PLACE WINNING LOCAL ENTRIES, POSTMARKED BEFORE MARCH 1, 2026, to your STATE CHAIRMAN OF EDUCATION Send to:

NAME _____ **PHONE** _____

ADDRESS _____ **CITY** _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

For USE BY STATE EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

2025-2026 NATIONAL EDUCATION COVER SHEET FIRST PLACE WINNERS ON THE STATE LEVEL

CONTEST

<u>CONTEST</u>	<u>FIRST PLACE</u>	<u>LOCAL COURT NAME AND NO. & City or Town</u>
<u>ART</u>		
DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
DIVISION IV	_____	_____
<u>POETRY</u>		
DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
DIVISION IV	_____	_____
<u>ESSAY</u>		
DIVISION I	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
<u>COMPUTER ART</u>		
DIVISION 1	_____	_____
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
<u>MUSIC</u>		
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
<u>PHOTOGRAPHY</u>		
DIVISION II	_____	_____
DIVISION III	_____	_____
DIVISION IV	_____	_____

STATE COURT OF: _____ STATE REGENT: _____

STATE EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

DATE: _____ PHONE NUMBER OF STATE EDUCATION CHAIR: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE STATE CHAIRPERSON OF EDUCATION AND SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON OF EDUCATION
WITH THE FIRST PLACE WINNING STATE ENTRIES, POSTMARKED **BEFORE** APRIL 1, 2026.

Nancy Bambenek

National Education Chairman

P.O.Box 583

St. Charles, MN 5597



SUGGESTED RUBRICS FOR JUDGES

POEMS AND ESSAYS

ADHERES TO RULES SUCH AS LENGTH OF ENTRY	5
NEATNESS	10
GRAMMAR, SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION	15
ORIGINALITY	30
CLEAR DEPICTION OF THE THEME, CONCEPT	<u>40</u>
TOTAL	100

ART, COMPUTER ART

ADHERES TO RULES FOR SIZE	5
NO WORDS ON ENTRY except for photographs	5
ORIGINALITY	30
CLEAR DEPICTION OF THEME	40
NEATNESS	5
COMPOSITION	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	100

MUSIC

ADHERES TO THE RULES	5
PROPER MUSIC NOTATION	20
ORIGINALITY	20
CLEAR DEPICTION OF THE THEME WITHIN THE LYRICS	25
COMPOSTION DISPLAYS AN UNDERSTANDING OF MUSICAL STRUCTURE	<u>30</u>
	100

PHOTOGRAPHY

Adheres to Rules for Size (8 x 10 Photography) i.e. Photo	25
No Words on the Entry	5
Originality	30
Clear Depiction of a Theme	<u>40</u>
	100

REGENTS, PLEASE MAKE COPIES TO GIVE TO YOUR JUDGES

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas →
National Scholarship Application/Cover Sheet
For 8th grader entering 9th grade in a Catholic High School**

The National Court will award two \$1,000.00 scholarships to 8th grade students entering the 9th grade in the Fall of 2026 to a Catholic High School. Notification of scholarship awards will be posted on the CDA website at www.catholicdaughters.org by mid-August.

Requirements

1. You must be Catholic. You can be female or male. You do not have to have a relative who is a CDA member.
2. **You must be attending a Catholic (not home setting) High School in the Fall.**
3. An essay of approximately 300 words typed and doubled-spaced entitled

**“As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more,”
psalm 71:14**

Must be submitted with this application/cover sheet.

(Please print or type clearly)

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone number (____) _____

High School Attending in the Fall of 2026 _____

The following requirements must be included with this application for your application to be considered:

- Essay as outlined above
- List of Church Activities
- List of Community Activities
- List of School Activities
- Letter of character reference from your Priest, Deacon or Religious (non-relative)
- Letter of character reference from your school or religious teacher (non-relative)
- Letter of character reference from an adult (non-relative)

I attest that this essay is my own original creation and that the information on the application is accurate.

NAME

DATE

All entries must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2026, and mailed to

**Yvette Griego
JCDA/Youth Chairman
1028 Diego Road
Santa Rosa, NM 88435**

National JCDA Scholarship Application/Cover Sheet

The National Court will award a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a JCDA Member entering College in the Fall of 2026. Notification of scholarship awards will be posted on the CDA website at www.catholicdaughters.org by mid-August.

Requirements

You must be Catholic and entering Freshman year in college.

The applicant must have been a member of the JCDA for at least two years **Immediately Preceding** an application for this award.

However, you **do not** need to have a relative who is a CDA member.

An essay of approximately 300 words typed and double-spaced entitled.

“As for me, I will always have hope; I will praise you more and more,” psalm 71:14

Must be submitted with this application/cover sheet.

(Please print or type clearly)

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone number (____) _____

College Attending in the Fall of 2026 _____

Name of JCDA Court _____

Years you were a member of JCDA: From _____ To _____

The following requirements must be included with this application for your application to be considered:

- Essay as outlined above
- List of JCDA Activities
- List of Church Activities
- List of Community/School Activities
- Letter of character reference from your Priest, Deacon, Religious, or Catechetical Leader (non-relative)
- Letter of character reference from your school or religious teacher (non-relative)
- Letter of character reference from an adult (non-relative)

I attest that this essay is my own original creation and that the information on the application is accurate.

NAME

DATE

All entries must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2026, and mailed to:

Yvette Griego
JCDA/Youth Chairman
1028 Diego Road
Santa Rosa, NM 88435



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

Campus Court Scholarship 2026 GUIDELINES

One \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a member of a **Catholic Daughters of the Americas Campus Court** for tuition in order to continue studies at a college or university.

- 1) This official Catholic Daughters application form must be completed and returned to the National Campus Court Chairman and must be accompanied by the following four (4) requirements.
 - a. Class registration for the fall semester 2026.
 - b. A list of your reasons for applying for the Catholic Daughter scholarship.
 - c. Your autobiography.
 - d. A letter from the advisor of your campus court listing you as a member of the Campus Court.
- 2) Applicant must be of the Catholic faith.
- 3) Applicant must be a member of a Campus Court.
- 4) Applicant must be enrolled in a college or university.
- 5) Only application blanks dated 2026 are to be used.
- 6) **The applicant MUST sign the application.**
- 7) No emailed applications, registration forms from the college/university, or letters from the Campus Court advisor will be accepted. All items must contain valid signatures and bear a postmark.
- 8) All Catholic Daughters application forms and required attachments are to be sent to the National Campus Court Chairman and must be postmarked by **May 15, 2026.**

(Please print or type clearly.)

Name of applicant _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____ Email _____

Name and Number of Campus Court _____

I attest that the information on this application is accurate.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

All entries must be postmarked by May 15, 2026, and mailed to

**Rita Carlson
Campus Court National Chairman
1306 S. 19th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501**

Catholic Daughters of the Americas ®



FATHER LEONARD BACHMANN GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Policies-Procedures-Rules-2025-2026

Three \$2,500.00 Scholarships

will be awarded to persons who have completed UNDERGRADUATE studies and who desire assistance for tuition in order to continue studies on the graduate level.

The recipients must be enrolled in a graduate program at a College or University.

1. The Catholic Daughters application form must be completed and returned to the National Scholarship Chairman and must be accompanied by (4) required enclosures. **Please include required enclosures (b, c & d) with the Catholic Daughters application in one envelope and send to the National Scholarship Chairman.**
 - (a) An official transcript of undergraduate work from the College or University is to be sent to the National Scholarship Chairman. Please be sure to give them the correct address of the Chairman. Make your request long before the **March 31st**, as these must be postmarked **before April 1, 2026.**
 - (b) Letter of academic reference from one College or University professor or teacher which must be signed by the **writer of letter.**
 - (c) List your reason for applying for the CDA scholarship.
 - (d) Your autobiography.
2. Applicant must be a citizen of the United States.
3. Applicants must be of the Catholic Faith.
4. Applicant; female or male, must be a member of the CDA **or** be a relative of a current member of the CDA.
5. Only Catholic Daughters application blanks dated 2025-2026 are to be used.
6. Application **MUST** be signed **by the applicant.**
7. **No** E-mailed applications, letters of academic reference or transcripts will be accepted. All must contain valid signatures and/or official seals and bear a postmark.
8. All Catholic Daughter application forms and required attachments are sent to the National Scholarship Chairman and must **be postmarked BEFORE April 1, 2026.**

Please Note: Prior to making the scholarship award, the recipient selected will be required to submit a letter from the College or University stating he or she is enrolled as a graduate student.

Mail COMPLETED APPLICATION BLANK AND ALL ATTACHMENTS TO:

Karin Dudash, Chairman
1705 Tyler Street
Altus, OK 73521
dudashcda@gmail.com

DEADLINE DATE: Application must be POSTMARKED BEFORE April 1, 2026.
Winners will be posted on the Catholic Daughters website after August 20, 2026.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS®

Application for 2025-2026 National CDA Graduate Scholarship

**This application form must be returned with documents outlined in
Policies – Procedures – Rules 2025-2026**

Please type or print:

NAME IN FULL _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

ADDRESS _____
Last First Street City State Zip code

NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL _____

ADDRESS _____

NAME of COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY _____

ADDRESS _____

DEGREE _____ YEAR _____ MAJOR _____
MINOR _____

LIST YOUR EXPERIENCE SINCE GRADUATION-DATES AND LOCATION OF STATED EXPERIENCE: (if
additional space is needed please use reverse side)

Are you a citizen of the United States? _____ Are you a member of the Catholic Faith? _____

Are you a member of the Catholic Daughters? _____

If so, Name of Court _____ No. _____

City _____ State _____

If not a member, you must be a relative of a current member of the Catholic Daughters! Please give name of member
and relationship: _____

Name of Court she belongs to: _____ No. _____

City _____ State _____

Have you read 2025-2026 Policies, Procedures and Rules covering this Scholarship? ____ (If a copy is not available to you, you
may download a copy from the CDA web site).

Applicant's Signature

Complete the information requested and attach it to this application and mail before April 1, 2026, to:

**Karin Dudash, Chairman
1705 Tyler Street
Altus, OK 73521
dudashcda@gmail.com**



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

To: Local, Campus, JCDA, Territorial, and State Court Regents

From: Rita Carlson, National Facebook Page Contest Chairman

Re: 2026 National Facebook Page Contest

Greetings to all Catholic Daughter Courts- *State, Local, Campus, JCDA and Territorial*

Enclosed you will find the Contest Guidelines, Facebook Page Suggestions, Instructions for Submissions, Entry Form, and Contest Score Sheet for the 2025 National Facebook Page Contest. Please be sure to **pass along** this information to your court Facebook Page administrator as soon as possible so she knows about the contest and the guidelines.

PLEASE be sure to *review the qualifications*. There are so many courts that have dynamic Facebook Pages, and we want to make sure they do not get disqualified for not following the rules.

TAKE NOTE: It can be easy to copy articles, stories, poems, recipes, emojis, clip art, etc. from the web or from emails that have circulated. Since many such items don't seem to have authors listed, the assumption often gets made that these items are free to use. However, a large number of such items are *copyright protected* (yes, even free clip art) and it is *illegal to use them* without permission. Articles, stories, poetry, clip art, photographs- any created and posted work falls under copyright law. Contrary to widespread belief, there does *not* need to be a copyright symbol or statement present for a writing, picture, or clip art to be protected by law. It is best to assume all items are protected by copyright or trademark law and seek permission before using them. Even if you post something *without realizing* it is protected, you could be taken to court and end up paying a great deal of money. CDA insurance does NOT cover copyright infringement cases. Use of non-original material without permission is grounds for disqualification from the Catholic Daughter Facebook Page contest.

Don't have a court Facebook Page yet? Don't worry. We have a division for those with new Facebook Pages, so you won't be competing against those who have had their Facebook Page for years.

WHY NOT START A FACEBOOK PAGE TODAY!

- Draw in new members.
- Educate new members (or even long-timers) about our organization.
- Show that we are an international organization.
- Keep everyone up to date on the events and activities of your court.
- Keep members who can't be at meetings in the loop!

Approved by National Regent Susan Moné



2026 NATIONAL FACEBOOK PAGE CONTEST

To be eligible for the **2026 National Facebook Page Contest**, all entries **must be POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2026.** *Facebook Page entries will not be accepted for judging after the deadline.*

Local, Campus, and JCDA Courts submit entries to the State Facebook Page Chairman by March 1, 2026. The 1st place winner in each category and division will be submitted **by the State Chairman** to the National Chairman. ®

State and Territorial Courts submit their Facebook Page contest entries **directly** to the National Chairman.

Facebook Page will be judged on the following categories:

- Layout (appearance, neatness, spacing, and all required elements)
- Headlines (interest, appeal)
- Creativity in design (including use of clip art, pictures, humor, etc.)
- Freshness of content
- Links to appropriate sites
- Coverage (local, state & national news, projects, and activities)
- Please refer to guidelines page for specific requirements and what each site must include.

Consider the following ideas and suggestions to enhance your sites:

- Ask your Court Chaplain or District Deputies to post on your Facebook Page.
- What about asking your Regent, other court officers or chairmen to post on your Facebook Page.
- National and State Post
- Post with Pictures make your site more fun.
- Acknowledgement of members makes a Facebook Page more personal and informs other members who cannot attend meetings. (consider thank you messages, sympathy, birthdays, and special celebrations of all kinds)
- Inform members of activities coming up. They can "Save the Date." Members need to plan far ahead for some events like state and national conventions.

Just a few notes to keep in mind:

There will be 3 judges for the national Facebook Page contest. Judges will be from various backgrounds and not all from the same organization. The chairman or anyone related to any of the entrants may not judge.

Facebook Pages not available at the time of judging will be disqualified. Three attempts will be made. Prizes will be awarded in each category, so let us know about your amazing Facebook Page and receive recognition for your court.



2025 National Facebook Page Contest Guidelines

Rita Carlson, National Chairman



State Regents *should* appoint a State Facebook Page Contest Chairman to oversee the contest on the state level.

®

All Facebook Pages are required to include the following:

(failure to include or comply with any of these elements will disqualify the entry)

1. **The CDA mission statement(in “about”) and Catholic Daughters registered logo (on Title page)***These two items identify CDA as a national organization and should be prominent.*
2. **Court name, number, and location of the court**
3. **Contact information for the Regent or the site Facebook Administrator**
It is important to protect our officer and member information. Home addresses and phone numbers should not be listed. Please use only email addresses.
4. **Post about the Circle of Love Program**
5. **Post about Local/State/National Projects**
All sites are to have information on local, state, and national projects. Most information is expected for the court's own projects with at least general information on the other levels of the Order.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Local, Campus and JCDA Courts:

- 1) Fill out and make three (3) copies of the entry form and score sheet.
- 2) Attach a copy of the score sheet to each entry form. Court information at top should be filled out.
- 3) Send entries to your State Chairman postmarked on or before **March 1, 2026**. Ask your State Regents for State Chairman contact information.
- 4) State Chairman will submit ONLY 1st place winners in each category to the National Facebook Page Chairman. Be sure to include a blank scoresheet with just the top filled out. Please **do not** send a score sheet filled out by State judges.

State and Territorial Courts

- Complete three (3) copies of the entry form and score sheet if mailing USPS.
- Attach a copy of the score sheet to each entry form, with the top lines filled out.
- Entries may be sent electronically to cdandrita90@gmail.com (send entry form and score sheet) on or before **April 1, 2026**.
- Hard copies should be mailed or postmarked on or before **April 1, 2026**, to:

Rita Carlson
National Facebook Page Contest Chairman
1306 S. 19th Street
Ft. Dodge, Iowa 50501



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

2026 National Facebook Page Contest Entry Form

Court Name and Number _____

Court[®] Location (City/State _____)

Name of Regent _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number ____ (____) _____

Facebook Page Address _____

Date Facebook Page Established _____

Name of Webmaster _____ Email _____

Category: (circle one) I) Local Court II) Campus Court III) JCDA Court
IV) Territorial Court V) State Court

Division: (circle one) I) New Facebook Page (less than 1-year old) II) Established Facebook Page

State Chairman Name _____

State Chairman Email Address _____

Please refer to instructions for submission on the guidelines page.

DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW

Date entry was received by State/National chairman _____

Facebook Page meets all requirements for a qualified entry. If no, please note reason for disqualification.

Yes _____ No _____



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

2026 National Facebook Page Contest Scoring Sheet

Court Name & Number _____

Category _____

Facebook Page Address _____

Division _____

Location _____

Regent's Name _____

REQUIREMENTS <i>(section completed by State/National Chairman)</i>		(√)Y / N
Required	CDA Mission Statement in "about" section	
Required	CDA Registered Logo prominently displayed on home page banner	
Required	Court name, number, and location on home page banner	
Required	Regent and/or Webmaster email address in "about" session	
Required	Circle of Love Program Description in "about" section	
Required	Local CDA Projects Post	
Required	State CDA Projects Post	
Required	National CDA Projects Post	
Required	Properly completed cover sheets (3) included	
Required	Facebook Page available at the time of judging. (Three attempts will be made to access site)	
	Facebook Page has completed all requirements and is considered a QUALIFIED entry?	
MAX POINTS	CATEGORIES <i>(section to be completed by judges)</i>	JUDGE'S SCORE
20	LAYOUT Comments:	
15	CREATIVITY IN DESIGN Comments:	
15	FRESHNESS OF CONTENT (Up to date information, readability, variety of content) Comments:	
10	LOCAL COVERAGE POST (Court news, projects, and activities) Comments:	
10	STATE COVERAGE POST (State CDA news, projects, and activities) Comments	
10	NATIONAL COVERAGE POST (National CDA news, projects, and activities) Comments:	
10	POST FROM VARIETY OF MEMBERS Comments:	
10	CIRCLE OF LOVE PROGRAM POST Comments:	
100	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE	JUDGE'S TOTAL SCORE



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

National Newsletter Contest

September 2025 from: National Newsletter Chairman, Karin Dudash

Re: 2025-2026 National Newsletter Contest

The 2024-2025 Newsletter Contest is over. Now is the time to start thinking about the 2025-2026 Contest. What an exciting project for both local and state courts. Many courts are using website links or email to distribute their newsletters and saving postage, ink, and paper- a great way to save on budgets and worth consideration by more courts. But always remember to mail a copy to those members without internet access.

NOW is the time to review your local court newsletter to see if you need to make any changes to meet all the requirements. Maybe it is time to start a newsletter for your court. The purpose of your newsletter is to keep the members engaged and informed. Whether you brought home a certificate and ribbon from the National Convention or not—you are all winners.

Why have a court newsletter?

- They are a wonderful tool to educate new members (or even old-timers) all about Catholic Daughters.
- They help members to understand how they are part of our national & state levels of the order.
- They communicate to the members of your court current activities, upcoming events and special projects the court may be planning.
- They are of special interest to those members that are unable to attend meetings due to illness, being homebound or because of work, school, or family responsibilities.
- Leaving copies of your newsletters in the church or distributing them to women of the parish can go a long way to pique interest and bring in new members!

An EFFECTIVE newsletter will: *Inform *Motivate *Inspire

Please remember that your newsletters are judged specifically on their content, not whether they are printed in black and white or color or how many pages it contains. What is important is the coverage of your local, state, and national CDA news, and the interests of your court and community. One of the rules for judges is that they cannot be CDA members. Remember this when you include national and state news. They will not know what is local, state, or national if you do not point this out to the reader.

In addition to this letter, the 2025-2026 Newsletter Contest Guidelines, Cover Sheet, and Score Sheets are included (Note: different score sheet for Local and State entries). If you are not the newsletter editor, it is very important that you give/send her a copy of this packet as soon as possible to help her make adjustments now to meet the requirements for the 2025-26 contest. PLEASE be sure to review ALL Qualifications! Too many entries are disqualified every year due to failure to comply with the requirements. Let's see if we can get 100% of the 2025-2026 Contest entries to meet all requirements!

As the National Chairman, I encourage all courts to publish a newsletter and participate in the 2025-26 contest. We had wonderful participation in 2024-25, let's see if we can double the entries in 2025-26, giving us all an opportunity to learn more about the amazing things our CDA sisters are doing around the states and territories. We want to encourage entries from our Campus and JCDA courts too. We have a wonderful story to tell...do your part in writing it.

Approved by:
Susan Moné, National Regent



2025-2026 National Newsletter Contest Guidelines

National Chairman Karin Dudash

DEADLINES:

- The State Regent is responsible for setting the state's contest deadline for entries in the local, campus, and JCDA state contest, keeping in mind national's deadline date of April 1, 2026.
- April 1, 2026, is the deadline for state and territorial courts to get their entries submitted to the National Newsletter Chairman.
- The State Regent, or State Newsletter Chairman, must send the 1st Place winner in each category and division, with a signed letter, from either party, verifying that each submitted entry was their state's 1st place winner. This needs to be sent to the National Newsletter Chairman POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE April 1, 2026. Newsletters will not be accepted for judging if not postmarked by this deadline date.
- Territorial and State Courts send their entries directly to the National Chairman POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE April 1, 2026. They also must include a verification letter stating that the entries submitted are original as distributed to the membership and have not been altered for the contest in any way.

REQUIREMENTS:

Each newsletter must include the following elements. Failure to comply with any of the following guidelines will result in automatic disqualification. These requirements are for each local, territorial, campus, JCDA and state entry.

1. **CDA Mission Statement.** If you have a JCDA court submitting an entry, also have the CDA Mission Statement included to show the affiliation with the National Organization.
2. **CDA Registered Logo** (can be located at www.catholicdaughters.org). JCDA courts can use the JCDA Logo but please also include the CDA Logo and sponsoring court name and number.
3. **Regent AND Editor information-** Name and email address. This information must appear near the nameplate at the top of the newsletter, in a designated editor block, or at the end of the newsletter. Make the information easy to find. If the Regent and/or editor do not have email, then an address *and* phone number are required. If you prefer not to use your personal address, a PO Box or church address could be used. This is an either-or option but either option needs to have the required information. If you are both regent and editor, indicate on your letterhead by saying Regent/Editor.
4. **Court name, number, and location** (no court name or number on state entries—just which state the newsletter is for) must appear at the top of the first page of the newsletter.
5. **Three (3) SETS** of the last three published newsletters must be submitted. This is required so that each of the three national judges will have their own set to look at. Each set must also include the following:
 - * Completed Cover Sheet signed by either the Regent or Newsletter Chairman
 - * Score sheet for the appropriate entry (state entry has a separate scoring sheet). Only fill out the top three lines. If the same scoring sheet is used at the state contest, please be sure to submit a clean scoring sheet for the national entry.
6. A **signed letter** by either the State Regent or the State Newsletter Chairman. This is to verify that each submitted entry was their state's 1st place winner. If it is a State Court entry, a signed letter by the State Regent verifying that the entry submitted is the original newsletter distributed to the members and that nothing was altered or changed just for the contest. This is the same requirement for Territorial Court entries except the letter will be signed by the local court regent.
7. Please **staple or use binder clips** for each issue and use binder clips for each set of three issues. **DO NOT** use plastic sleeves or folders.
8. All Territorial and State Court newsletters are **submitted** directly to the National Newsletter Chairman. All Local, Campus and JCDA Court entries are submitted to the National Newsletter Chairman after being judged at the state level.

The **mailing address** for the National Newsletter Chairman is:

National Newsletter
Chairman Karin Dudash
1705 Tyler Street
Altus, OK 73521
dudashcda@gmail.com

9. **Important Legal Notice:** It can be easy to copy articles, stories, poems, recipes, emojis, clip art, etc. from the web or from emails that have circulated. Since many such items don't seem to have authors listed, the assumption often gets made that these items are free to use. However, a very large number of such items are copyright protected (yes, even free clip art) and it is illegal to use them without permission. It is best to assume all items are protected by copyright or trademark law and seek permission before using them. Even if you print something without realizing it is protected, you could be taken to court and end up paying a great deal of money. CDA insurance does NOT cover copyright infringement cases.

JUDGING CATEGORIES:

- o LAYOUT (Appearance, neatness, effective use of white spaces, etc.)
- o HEADLINES (Informative, eye catching, capture interest)
- o LOCAL, STATE, and NATIONAL COVERAGE (News, projects, activities)
- o JOURNALISTIC STYLING (Readability, spelling, grammar, objectivity)
- o SPECIAL FEATURES (Art, humor, pictures, etc.)

CATEGORIES: (It is possible for a state to have a state winner for each Category and Division)

- CATEGORY I: **Local** Courts with 100 or less members
CATEGORY II: **Local** Courts with 101 to 200 members
CATEGORY III: **Local** Courts with 201 or more members
CATEGORY IV: **State** Courts with 500 or less members
CATEGORY V: **State** Courts with 501 to 1,500 members
CATEGORY VI: **State** Courts with 1,501 or more members
CATEGORY VII: **Territorial** Courts (States without a State Court)
CATEGORY VIII: **Campus** Courts
CATEGORY IX: **JCDA** Courts

DIVISIONS:

- DIVISION I: Courts publishing 1-4 issues per year
DIVISION II: Courts publishing 5 or more issues per year

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

2025-2026 National Newsletter Contest Guidelines



Following are some suggestions to help the newsletter editor arrange a newsletter with content that is newsworthy and appealing and to prepare for the National Newsletter Contest. It is very important that the Regent give the Newsletter Contest Guidelines to the court newsletter editor as soon as possible. Follow the guidelines carefully and if you have any questions feel free to contact the national newsletter chair for clarification.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

- **Contact Information:** Include the name of the Court Chaplain, District Deputy and email of all court officers.
- **Meeting Place and Time:** Include the time, date and place of your next meeting. This is a great recruitment tool and listing your next meeting as “Next Meeting 7:30 pm September 7 in the School Hall” may not be sufficient. What school? What address?
- **Court activities:** Put them in short articles with the byline (name) of the person that wrote the article under the headline. Short articles are more likely to be read than longer ones.
- **Acknowledgement of members for thank you, sympathy, announcements, promotions, etc.,** makes a newsletter more personal. It also gives information to members that do not or cannot attend meetings.
- **Other Information:** Ask your Court Chaplain and District Deputy to write an article or paragraph each month for the newsletter.
- **National and State News:** Include the most current information from your National and State newsletters. Since these newsletters are usually sent quarterly, divide up the news you receive into two or three newsletters. There is plenty of information to work with. Be sure to list any National or State Event early so that travel plans can be arranged.
- **Website Information:** You are connected to a national organization and members need to know how and where they can find current information of national activities. More information is on the national website at www.catholicdaughters.org. List your State and Court websites also (if applicable). Even if you do not use a computer, there are others in the court and their family members who may look into these.
- **Number the pages beginning with page two (2).** It is not necessary to number the first page, but page order can get mixed up without page numbers.
- **Fill in empty spaces with a related graphic, prayer, poem, announcements, clip art, etc.**
- **Be creative but most of all have fun.** We all enjoy receiving Court newsletters.
- **Contact information is very important.** Catholic Daughters are not the only ones that read our newsletters. Many courts place their newsletters in the lobby of the Church or offices of their parish and make the newsletter a great recruiting tool. Include contact information by email and church address if possible. Because without ample contact information, we may have just lost a new member. So, check your newsletters, and make sure you have the necessary contact information in it.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2025-2026 National Newsletter Contest Cover Sheet

State, Territorial, Local, Campus and JCDA Entries

Court Name and Number/State Name _____

Court City _____ State _____

Name of Regent _____

Address of Regent _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____ Email _____

Current number of members _____ Number of newsletter issues published/year _____

Category _____ Division _____

Publication Dates: _____

Signature of Regent or State Newsletter Contest Chairman _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LOCAL, CAMPUS, AND JCDA COURTS:

1. Complete this **Cover** Sheet, make three (3) copies and attach one cover sheet to each set of three (3) issues.
2. Look for and use the correct **Scoring** Sheet for your entry, fill out the top three lines only, make three (3) copies and attach one scoring sheet to each set of three (3) issues.
3. Send your three (3) **sets** of newsletters to your State Newsletter Chairman listed below, postmarked on or before the deadline set by your State Regent for entries to be judged at the state level.

State Chairman Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

4. After State judging is completed, State Newsletter Chairman sends the three (3) sets of the winning entries to the National Newsletter Chairman. The Scoring Sheet for each set *must* be replaced with a new, unmarked fresh sheet for the national judges. The national deadline is **April 1, 2026**.
5. As part of the state's judging, the State Newsletter Chairman should verify that *all* requirements for the National Contest have been met before sending them on to the national level.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR STATE AND TERRITORIAL COURTS:

Cover Sheet and Scoring Sheet instructions same as above.

Send your three (3) sets of newsletters to the **National** Newsletter Chairman, postmarked on or before April 1, 2026. (Refer to line item #9 in Guidelines for mailing address)



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

2025-2026 National Newsletter Contest

Scoring Sheet

Territorial, Local, Campus and JCDA Entries

Court Name and Number _____

Category _____ **Division** _____

Location _____ **Regent's Name** _____

	REQUIREMENTS (Completed by Contest Chairman)	Y OR N
Required	CDA Mission Statement (JCDA courts may include JCDA Mission Statement)	
Required	CDA Registered Logo (JCDA courts may include JCDA Registered Logo)	
Required	Regent information: Name with either email <i>or</i> mailing address and phone number	
Required	Editor information: Name with either email <i>or</i> mailing address and phone number	
Required	Court name, number, and location listed on top of first page	
Required	Three (3) copies of the last three (3) published newsletters are included	
Required	One completed cover sheet and this scoring sheet with the top portion completed are attached to each set of three (3) newsletters.	
Required	Signed verification letter from State Regent or State Newsletter Chairman stating that this entry was judged and awarded 1 st Place at the State level.	
	Newsletter contest entry meets all requirements and is considered a QUALIFIED entry	
MAX POINTS	CATEGORIES (Scored by Contest Judges)	SCORE
20	LAYOUT (Appearance, neatness, effective use of white spaces, etc.) Comments:	
15	HEADLINES (Informative, eye catching, capture interest) Comments:	
30	LOCAL COVERAGE (Court news, projects and activities) Comments:	
10	STATE COVERAGE (State CDA news, projects and activities) Comments:	
10	NATIONAL COVERAGE (National CDA news, projects and activities) Comments:	
10	JOURNALISTIC STYLING (Readability, spelling, grammar, objectivity) Comments:	
05	SPECIAL FEATURES (Art, humor, pictures, etc.) Comments:	
100	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE (90 for Territorial Court since they will not have any state news)	



Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2025-2026 National Newsletter Contest Scoring Sheet

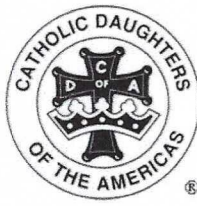
State Court Entries Only

State Court of _____

Category _____ Division _____

State Regent's Name _____

	REQUIREMENTS (Completed by National Contest Chairman)	Y OR N
Required	CDA Mission Statement	
Required	CDA Registered Logo	
Required	Regent information: Name with either email <i>or</i> mailing address and phone number	
Required	Editor information: Name with either email <i>or</i> mailing address and phone number	
Required	State name on top of first page	
Required	Three (3) copies of the last three (3) published newsletters are included	
Required	One completed cover sheet and this scoring sheet with the top portion completed are attached to each set of three (3) newsletters.	
Required	Signed verification letter from State Regent that this entry is the original newsletter distributed to the members.	
	Newsletter contest entry meets all requirements and is considered a QUALIFIED entry	
MAX POINTS	CATEGORIES (Scored by National Contest Judges)	SCORE
20	LAYOUT (Appearance, neatness, effective use of white spaces, etc.) Comments:	
15	HEADLINES (Informative, eye catching, capture interest) Comments:	
10	LOCAL COVERAGE (Court news, projects and activities) Comments:	
30	STATE COVERAGE (State CDA news, projects and activities) Comments:	
10	NATIONAL COVERAGE (National CDA news, projects and activities) Comments:	
10	JOURNALISTIC STYLING (Readability, spelling, grammar, objectivity) Comments:	
05	SPECIAL FEATURES (Art, humor, pictures, etc.) Comments:	
100	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE	JUDGE'S TOTAL SCORE



LOCAL, CAMPUS AND JCDA NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

Dear :

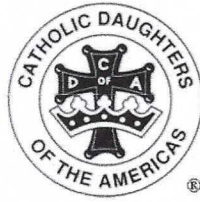
This letter is to inform you that each enclosed entry is our state's 1st Place winner from our State Newsletter Contest. I verify that all requirements have been met and this is a qualified entry. My name and contact information are as follows:

(name)

(State Regent/State Newsletter Chairman)

(email)

(cell phone number, or land line if preferred)



STATE AND TERRITORIAL NEWSLETTER ENTRIES

Dear :

This letter is to inform you that this entry is the original newsletter distributed to our members and that nothing has been altered or changed since its publication. I verify that all requirements have been met and this is a qualified entry. My name and contact information are as follows:

(name)

(State Regent/State Newsletter Chairman)

(email)

(cell phone number, or land line if preferred)



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

National Website Contest

To: Local, Campus, JCDA, Territorial, and State Court Regents

From: Rita Carlson, National Website Contest Chairman

Re: 2026 National Website Contest

Greetings to all Catholic Daughter Courts- *State, Local, Campus, JCDA and Territorial*

Enclosed you will find the Contest Guidelines, Website Suggestions, Instructions for Submissions, Entry Form, and Contest Score Sheet for the 2025 National Website Contest. Please be sure to **pass along** this information to your court webmaster as soon as possible so she knows about the contest and the guidelines.

PLEASE be sure to *review the qualifications*. There are so many courts that have dynamic websites, and it is a shame that several have been disqualified in past years because they didn't comply with the requirements.

TAKE NOTE: It can be easy to copy articles, stories, poems, recipes, emojis, clip art, etc. from the web or from emails that have circulated. Since many such items don't seem to have authors listed, the assumption often gets made that these items are free to use. However, a large number of such items are *copyright protected* (yes, even free clip art) and it is *illegal to use them* without permission. Articles, stories, poetry, clip art, photographs- any created and posted work falls under copyright law. Contrary to widespread belief, there does *not* need to be a copyright symbol or statement present for a writing, picture, or clip art to be protected by law. It is best to assume all items are protected by copyright or trademark law and seek permission before using them. Even if you post something *without realizing* it is protected, you could be taken to court and end up paying a great deal of money. CDA insurance does NOT cover copyright infringement cases. Use of non-original material without permission is grounds for disqualification from the Catholic Daughter website contest.

Don't have a court website yet? Don't worry. We have a division for those with new websites, so you won't be competing against those who have had their website for years.

WHY NOT START A WEBSITE TODAY!

- Draw in new members.
- Educate new members (or even long-timers) about our organization.
- Show that we are an international organization.
- Keep everyone up to date on the events and activities of your court.
- Keep members who can't be at meetings in the loop!

We have courts at every level that are dynamic, faith-filled, and loving. Let's get out there and share our story!

Approved by: Susan Moné, National Regent

2025-2026 NATIONAL WEBSITE CONTEST



To be eligible for the **2026 National Website Contest**, all entries **must be POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 1, 2026.** *Website entries will not be accepted for judging after the deadline.*

Local, Campus, and JCDA Courts submit entries to the State Website Chairman by March 1, 2026, The 1st place winner in each category and division will be submitted **by the State Chairman** to the National Chairman.

State and Territorial Courts submit their website contest entries **directly** to the National Chairman.

Websites will be judged on the following categories:

- Layout (appearance, neatness, spacing, and all required elements)
- Headlines (interest, appeal)
- Creativity in design (including use of clip art, pictures, humor, etc.)
- Journalistic Style (Readability, spelling, objectivity)
- Freshness of content
- Ease of locating information on site
- Information about your court and its history
- Links to appropriate sites Coverage (local, state & national news, projects, and activities)
- Please refer to guidelines page for specific requirements and what each site must include

Consider the following ideas and suggestions to enhance your sites:

- Ask your Court Chaplain or District Deputies to write an article.
- What about asking your Regent, other court officers or chairmen for comments?
- National and State News (members are connected to a national organization and need to know current information. Make them aware of our national website at www.catholicdaughters.org)
- Pictures make your site more fun. (Be sure to get permission from members to use their picture.)
- Acknowledgement of members makes a website more personal and informs other members who cannot attend meetings. (consider thank you messages, sympathy, birthdays, and special celebrations of all kinds)
- Inform members of activities coming up. They can "Save the Date." Members need to plan far ahead for some events like state and national conventions.

Just a few notes to keep in mind:

There will be 3 judges for the national website contest. Judges will be from various backgrounds and not all from the same organization. The chairman or anyone related to any of the entrants may not judge.

Websites not available at the time of judging will be disqualified. Three attempts will be made.

Prizes will be awarded in each category, so let us know about your amazing websites and receive recognition for your court.



2026 National Website Contest Guidelines

Rita Carlson, National Chairman



State Regents *should* appoint a State Website Contest Chairman to oversee the contest on the state level.

All websites are required to include the following:
(failure to include or comply with any of these elements will disqualify the entry)

1. **The CDA mission statement and Catholic Daughters registered logo (on home page)** *These two items identify CDA as a national organization and should be prominent.*
2. **Court name, number, and location of the court (on home page)**
3. **Contact information for the Regent or the site Webmaster (on home page)**
It is important to protect our officer and member information. Home addresses and phone numbers should not be listed. Please use only email addresses.
4. **Contact information for court officers/membership chairman**
Contact information published on the web should be limited to email addresses. It is important to have a way for ladies to contact your court with questions on becoming members!
5. **Description of Circle of Love Program (not just a link to the national website descriptions)**

Local/State/National Projects

All sites are to have information on local, state, and national projects. Most information is expected for the court's own projects with at least general information on the other levels of the Order. (i.e. Local courts have much on their projects and less on state and national. State courts focus on their projects, less on national but should at least list local/campus/JCDA courts with name, #, and locations, contact email, and links to their websites if they exist)

Link to National CDA website. Local courts need a link to their State CDA website if one exists.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION

Local, Campus and JCDA Courts:

- 1) Fill out and make three (3) copies of the entry form and score sheet.
- 2) Attach a copy of the score sheet to each entry form. Court information at top should be filled out.
- 3) Send entries to your State Chairman postmarked on or before **March 1, 2026**. Ask your State Regents for State Chairman contact information.
- 4) State Chairman will submit ONLY 1st place winners in each category to the National Website Chairman. Be sure to include a blank scoresheet with just the top filled out. Please **do not** send a score sheet filled out by State judges.

State and Territorial Courts:

- 1) Complete three (3) copies of the entry form and score sheet if mailing USPS.
- 2) Attach a copy of the score sheet to each entry form, with the top lines filled out.
- 3) Entries may be sent electronically to cdandrita90@gmail.com (send entry form and score sheet) on or before **April 1, 2026**
- 4) Hard copies should be mailed or postmarked on or before **April 1, 2026**, to:

Rita Carlson
National Website Contest Chairman

1306 S. 19th Street
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

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



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

2026 National Website Contest Entry Form

®
®

Court Name and Number _____

Court Location (City/State) _____

Name of Regent _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number __ (____) _____

Website Address _____

Date Website Established _____

Name of Webmaster _____ Email _____

Category: (circle one) I) Local Court II) Campus Court III) JCDA Court
IV) Territorial Court V) State Court

Division: (circle one) I) New Website (less than 1-year old) II) Established Website

State Chairman Name _____

State Chairman Email Address _____

Please refer to instructions for submission on the guidelines page.

DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE BELOW

Date entry was received by State/National chairman _____

Website meets all requirements for a qualified entry. Yes _____ No _____

If no, please note reason for disqualification.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

2026 National Website Contest Scoring Sheet

Court Name & Number_____

Category_____ Division_____

Website Address_____

Location_____

Regent's Name_____

REQUIREMENTS <i>(section completed by State/National Chairman)</i>		(√)Y / N
Required	CDA Mission Statement prominently displayed on home page	
Required	CDA Registered Logo prominently displayed on home page	
Required	Court name, number, and location on home page	
Required	Regent and/or Webmaster email address on home page	
Required	Court officers and/or Membership Chairman's email address	
Required	Description of Circle of Love Program	
Required	Local CDA Projects	
Required	State CDA Projects	
Required	National CDA Projects	
Required	Link to National CDA website. Link to State CDA website (for local courts if state has website).	
Required	Properly completed cover sheets (3) included	
Required	Website available at the time of judging. (Three attempts will be made to access site)	
	Website has completed all requirements and is considered a QUALIFIED entry?	
MAX POINTS	CATEGORIES <i>(section to be completed by judges)</i>	JUDGE'S SCORE
20	LAYOUT (Appearance, neatness, etc.) Comments:	
15	CREATIVITY IN DESIGN (Headline, site interest & appeal, clip art, pictures, etc.) Comments:	
15	FRESHNESS OF CONTENT (Up to date information, readability, variety of content) Comments:	
10	LOCAL COVERAGE (Court news, projects, and activities) Comments:	
10	STATE COVERAGE (State CDA news, projects, and activities) Comments:	
10	NATIONAL COVERAGE (National CDA news, projects, and activities) Comments:	
10	EASE OF USE (Ease of locating info, links to state/national CDA sites, other links) Comments:	
10	CIRCLE OF LOVE PROGRAM INFORMATION Comments:	
100	TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE	JUDGE'S TOTAL SCORE

****Territorial Courts do not have a State Court; therefore, they will not be judged on State Coverage and their Total Possible Score is 90.**