

# SHARE

SUMMER  
2025



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

*We are a People of Hope!*



*Greetings from State and Territorial Officers' Conference Attendees!*



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### *We Are a People of Hope*

**A**s boldly stated in the opening words of Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction, "*Spes non confundit (Hope does not disappoint)*," hope is the unifying theme of the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 which began with the traditional opening of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024, by Pope Francis, and it continues until the closing

of the Holy Door potentially on January 6, 2026, the solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord by Pope Leo XIV. What a blessing for us to be in the midst of this history: to be led by two Popes in one important Jubilee.

As Pope Francis so beautifully expressed: "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." During the Jubilee Year, we are invited to embark on a pilgrimage of hope, so that, "Through our witness, may hope spread to all those who anxiously seek it."

But what exactly is hope? It is not just optimism — it is a deep confidence in God's love and faithfulness, even in difficult times. Hope encompasses the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life, placing trust in Christ's promises and relying on the grace of the Holy Spirit. And while hope can involve feelings of joy and peace, it is ultimately an act of will, a decision to trust in God's plan and rely on His grace.

As servant leaders and faithful members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas,



Father John Erick Villa  
National Chaplain

we are called to be the people of hope like Mary. If we truly believe in Christ and His victory on the Cross, we know that there is always hope. God is for us, not against us, and He gave us Mary to remind us of this truth.

Sometimes the things that happen in life leave you asking, "Why? Why now? Why this? Why me? Why?" But instead of asking these "why" questions, we

are challenged to ask instead: "What do you want me to learn from this, Lord?" The answer to this more important question impacts and compels our lives in so many other ways. It leads to the love of Christ manifested not only in our joys, but even in the seemingly painful episodes of our lives. And we get to listen to God in the silence of our hearts, especially in our grace-filled time with Him at the Blessed Sacrament.

"For the love of Christ urges us," it says in 2 Corinthians 5, He chooses to use every weakness of ours to demonstrate His strength. No one denies that life can be hard. But it could also be full of purpose for us and for those whom we touch with our lives.

And truly, a big part of hope is the need to wait. To stay still. And to celebrate the moment. Many of us find it hard to sit still, or to take time for quiet reflection and self-examination. It can be hard to wait patiently in the darkness for the light to come in God's appointed time. God's plan unfolds in His way and time, not ours.

We are a people of hope, and our relationship with the Blessed Mother anchors us to the love of Jesus, her Son, our Lord and Savior.

# SHARE

## Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Summer 2025  
Volume 55 | Number 3

### National Chaplain

Father Erick Villa

### National Regent

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Brenda West, Virginia

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Perspective, Action  
and Perseverance  
*Leadership*



### About the Cover

The Catholic Daughters pictured are Women of Hope, who came together in Scottsdale, Arizona for officer training. They shared ideas that not only enriched their own lives but will also inspire and uplift their members as living witnesses of faith, service, and trust in God's promises, as they bring His message to others.

- Courtesy of Past National Regent  
Helene Shepard

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

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The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has approximately 60,000 members in 1250 courts in the United States, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

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## NATIONAL REGENT'S MESSAGE

**D**ear Catholic Daughters,  
It is hard to believe that I am past the midway point of my two-year term already! How time flies.

And what a busy, productive and satisfying first year it has been. I am blessed to be able to work with such a wonderful National Board. Each member is a true Team Player, and we work well together in Unity and Charity -- and, I would add, Harmony. I am proud of every member and love working with them. Thank you, National Board.

In July, we held our State and Territorial Officers Conference at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. It was a satisfying and inspiring three days, filled with informative and fun presentations, lots of shared CDA spirituality and sisterhood, and lots of cheerful networking.

As I looked out at the gathering, I was moved by the attentive and enthusiastic faces and could feel positive energy throughout the room. It was encouraging to have a large number of first timers. I was fortunate to speak personally with many attendees, and from these encounters, I am confident we are truly "CDA Building Hope for the Future," the theme of this issue of SHARE.

It was especially exciting to have Territorial Regents at the Conference. Territorial Regents have a unique leadership role within our order and their participation is vital. To have a State Board there must be at least five courts. Territorial Courts are states with fewer than five and function as local courts. Does this make them any less? Absolutely not! The order is proud of you and recognizes that you face unique challenges. Although you have fewer courts and less "territory" to cover, you have the support of the National Board and past officers of your court who can support you. You have your National Supervisor and your National Regent to call on whenever you need. I encourage frequent communication by phone, email or zoom with your National Supervisor. Keep up the good work!

We have updated the Officers section on our CDA Website to include the names and email addresses of Territorial Regents and the names and locations of the courts in their states. On the web you see National Contacts, State Contacts and now Territorial Contacts in the search scroll. My hope is that it gives you another option, by being able to be in communication with other Territorial Court Regents to offer each other support and the chance to share ideas.

In June, I had the privilege of attending the Texas JCDA Convention in San Antonio.

What an awesome and inspiring weekend to spend with these lovely ladies who we pray someday will be members and officers to fill our shoes to keep Catholic Daughters alive and well in the future. The JCDA State Officers conducted a very



Susan Moné  
National Regent

well ordered and productive convention, with beautiful spirituality at every turn and capped off with a lot of fun. I encourage all State Officers and local courts to consider JCDA in your state. I promise you won't regret this blessing of beautiful young ladies. It was wonderful to see how the older girls looked after and helped the younger JCDA members.

In what other ways is "CDA Building Hope for the Future?" One important event on the horizon is the Biennial Convention in Iowa next year. It is being held July 22-26, 2026. Please "Save the Dates." It provides a unique opportunity for

learning, sharing and bonding with your sisters from around the country. The Convention provides a look at the broader picture of CDA and the purposes of our order. It's a magnificent opportunity to pray together and work together for the good of our order while meeting new CDA sisters and renewing friendships from previous conventions. So many of our CDA sisters will join as women of faith to realize what a special and blessed group we are and what a big difference we are making in our church, community and world.

Another way of building hope for the future is increasing membership. This is vitally important at this point in our order when membership is falling. If you haven't already, jump into the National Board Membership Contest. We are in the midst of phase two; there is more information on the CDA Website.

Please continue your trademark CDA charitable generosity. During the first half of my term, we have seen so many disasters, and I am so grateful to all of you who stepped up and donated for the disruptive hurricanes in Florida and North Carolina and unbelievable fires in California. From our general disaster fund we also sent money to two dioceses when they experienced major damage to their parishes. And then the unimaginable disaster in Texas with the overwhelming floods and the terrible loss of life. One again the CDA in Unity and tremendous Charity provided relief funds to those suffering so deeply.

Let us keep our CDA Patroness, the Blessed Mother Mary, close to our hearts. From years ago, many of us will remember the bracelets we wore with the slogan "WWJD -What Would Jesus Do?" As you consciously Build Hope for yourself and your Catholic Daughter sisters for the future, sometimes ask yourself..." WWMD - "What Would Mary Do?"

What if Mary was sitting beside us at a meeting or a court event? We would be on our very best behavior that we learned at our earthly mother's knee. Maybe we should provide a seat for Mary our heavenly Mother so that all we do is done in Catholic Daughter Unity and Charity.

Keep your focus on "Be the Beacon of Hope, a Light in the Darkness."

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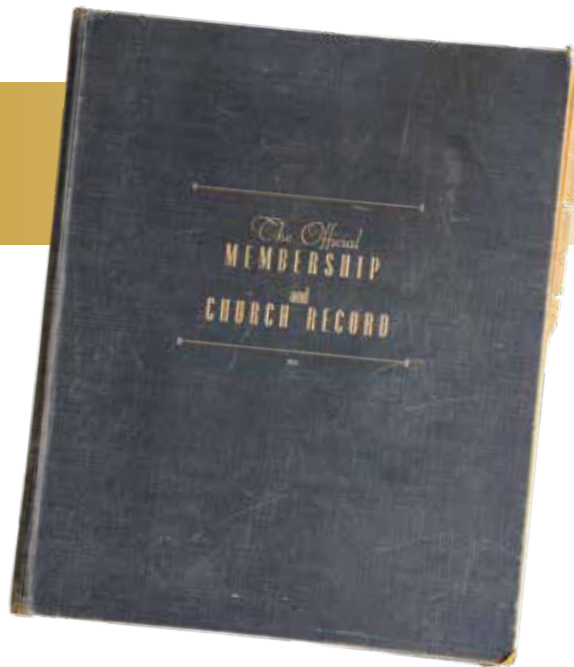


# KEEPING OUR MEMBERSHIP

## *Engaged and Involved*



Essie Walker  
National Regent-Elect  
National Membership Chairman



Members' time and talents are vital to the growth of Catholic Daughters. It is important that we keep our members engaged and involved in CDA and community activities. Achieving this requires developing robust relationships, organizing more group activities, expressing appreciation, and comprehending the needs of our members.

How well do we know our members? It only takes a minute to hold that one-on-one conversation. While waiting for a meeting or social event to start, walk around and talk to members. Take time to find out how they have been since the last gathering. It is important to keep the questions on the light side. If the member would like to share more in-depth information, take time to listen. As I always say, we never know what is going on in anyone's home or in their everyday personal life.

We know that we value our members. However, it is just as important to let members know how much they are valued. Members should hear that all they do for CDA, their parish and in the community is appreciated. This approach will encourage participation and contribute to the growth of our organization.

Have you ever thought about your court members volunteering as a group? Plan an event in the community. Activities may include cleaning the park, assisting at a nursing home, helping to paint an elderly person's home, or planting a community garden. These events will benefit

the community and strengthen bonds among members. Group work encourages reluctant members to get involved. Remember, some members only need to be asked.

As leaders, let us identify and promote opportunities to encourage more bonding membership participation. One suggestion is to form a team of members to put together an elevator pitch to promote CDA. The pitch can be utilized during membership drives or having that one-on-one conversation with a prospective member. It will be important for all members on the team and in the court to know the pitch. Have the team to start with the inception of CDA. Let us say back to 1903 up to the present time. Talk about the great work your court is doing as a group.

Members like to know that they are part of an organization that is effective not only in the lives of others but also the lives of the members. Our success in growing membership depends on fulfilling the needs and expectations of our current members.

Our Past National Regent Emily Guilherme wrote a Membership article entitled Membership Retention. The topics were Be Active, Be Positive, Be Open, and Be Bold. A line in Be Active stood out as significant, "Women who do not feel their gifts are being utilized, frequently lose their passion and start dropping off. So, utilize their gifts."

Our members are the most valuable resources within Catholic Daughters. Assess your court's methods for promoting membership engagement, evaluating





members' activity levels, collecting suggestions from members about group activities, and ensuring all members feel appreciated.

**Let us revisit our Mission Statement and Motto.**

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) strive 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.

Our Motto: Unity and Charity.

**Take a moment to reflect on the fact that we are a women's organization that focuses on the following:**

- Promoting Justice and Equality: We should work

toward creating a society where everyone is treated with fairness and respect.

- Advancing Human Rights and Dignity: We advocate for the fundamental rights and inherent worth of all individuals.
- Working Through Love: We believe in putting our faith into acts of charity and service.
- Our motto encourages us to come together in faith and support one another, as well as to extend support to our communities through charitable works.

Membership currently stands at 52,824 members. There are 4 Campus Courts, 32 State Courts, 1004 Local Courts, and 27 Territorial Courts. 🏰



# Catholic Daughters of the Americas CDA Membership in Action CDA Membership Drive Contest Now In Phases 2 and 3



## What are we doing and Why?

~ We are holding a Quarterly Membership Drive Contest to increase Local Court Membership

## When?

- ~ April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025 -- **Winners Announced!**
- ~ 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 Winners' List!**



# Building HOPE *for the Future of Families*



Barb Wiechmann  
National Director  
National Family Chairman

**A**s I was reading about hope and families, some of the focus was on how loud life is now. I always thought that family life was loud until the lights would go out at night. At times it was a challenge to find a quiet isolated spot. Yes, I was the second oldest in a family of 9 kids in a house with 4 bedrooms. It was just family noise... not TV, social media etc.

The first chapter in our story begins with a family. A family is where we learn what it is to love and to care about others. With the world changing fast, families are learning to evolve with the changes. It is how they evolve and adapt that is challenging. In the “olden” days we did not have the social media influence of today. Today, families need to learn to use social media in a positive way. I know there are calendar apps to enter everyone’s activities on a schedule and that schedule is usually full, pulling parents/caregivers in so many directions. A suggestion could be to add Mass to the calendar with options for attending at different times on Saturday and Sunday. Church is not always on the important list of activities. So, how do we encourage

church to be moved up on the list of important events?

As parish members, we see families at community events and can encourage them to join us for an activity at church. As it is our responsibility to be a positive ambassador for the church, Catholic Daughters can sponsor fun family activities that help parents to build healthy, positive relationships with their children in the church. Prepare a handout or bulletin insert with the names of family apps and Catholic websites available for kids and parents. Consult with your parish or diocese evangelization contact for information to share.

I encourage you to continue your wonderful activities and to share them with other CDA sisters. Remember that this is not just for the local courts to sponsor Circle of Love Family projects. Each State Court is to have a Family project or statewide event also.

Each parish, each culture and area of the country is different, so different activities work to support families. We need to learn from each other, encourage each other and pray for each other. 🙏

*“Train up a child in the way he should go,  
and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

**Proverbs 22:6**



*Cathedral of Orvieto*

# A Pilgrim's Path TO HOPE



Karen Dudash  
National Director

**D**o you have a bucket list? A list of places you want to go and things you want to do. Ultimately, we wish to go to Heaven to be with our Beloved Savior, Jesus Christ. However, before we get there, we have other yearnings. One of mine is to see the Pope in person. When the opportunity arose to go on a pilgrimage to Italy, I jumped at the chance. It promised a papal audience and that my hope of seeing our Holy Father would be fulfilled.

A pilgrimage is a journey undertaken for religious or moral reasons. Such a journey can be transformative, offering a unique blend of physical exploration and inner spiritual renewal. Pilgrims seek a profound understanding, connection, and enlightenment within their faith practice. The reasons one embarks on these sacred trips vary with each traveler. One needs to fulfill a vow, express devotion to a saint, or seek forgiveness for some sin. Looking for answers to life's



*Mass in Orvieto*

profound questions may be the motivation. One leaves the familiar behind to follow a path of contemplation and prayer. The hope is to encounter God's grace and obtain spiritual enlightenment.

When I left on the 2025 Oklahoma CDA Jubilee Pilgrimage to Italy, I was unsure of my intention. I knew that the tradition of a pilgrimage was rooted in the Catholic faith. For centuries, believers journeyed to places of religious importance. Often walking in the footsteps of saints and martyrs, pilgrims pray for their intercession and find inspiration from the lives of these

holy witnesses to God's sanctifications. For myself, the sacred destinations provided a tangible link to the divine. My pilgrimage led to the Vatican. However, to my dismay, there would be no audience with the Pope. We left Rome before Pope Leo XIV held his first General Audience. I trusted that God had other plans for me.

As this is a Jubilee year, all four major basilicas (St.



Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls) in Rome opened Holy Doors. Passing through a Holy Door symbolizes entering a deeper relationship with Christ. As in John 10:9, Jesus said, "I am the door." I found entering a Holy Door a powerful reminder of Christ's presence. St. Peter's Basilica took my breath away. I knew that it was the largest church in the world, but until viewed from the back, one cannot imagine the magnitude of this house of God. Each basilica provided space for prayer, sacraments, and communal worship. At St. Peter's, the Sacrament of Reconciliation was available. There were many participating priests. Each was identified by what languages he spoke. I confessed my sins to a Polish priest who spoke English. Receiving absolution and restoring my relationship with God in this magnificent basilica was amazing.

I left that experience renewed and excited to continue my quest for spiritual awareness. For Catholics, the core of our faith lies in the Eucharist. The transformation of bread and wine into the true Body and Blood of Christ occurs daily on the altars of Catholic churches worldwide. The Blessed Sacrament unites us with Jesus and our brothers and sisters in Christ like nothing else can. Eucharistic Miracles are God's extraordinary interventions to confirm faith. The Lord performs these miracles to give us a visible sign of the Eucharist. There is the true body and blood of the Lord. Our pilgrimage took us to the sites of two Eucharistic Miracles.

The Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena occurred in 1263 when a visiting priest on pilgrimage stopped at the Basilica of Bolsena (Italy) to celebrate Holy Mass. He spoke the words of consecration, and blood dripped over his hands onto the altar. He

interrupted Mass and went to the neighboring city of Orvieto, where Pope Urban IV resided. The linen bearing the spots of blood remains enshrined and exhibited in the Cathedral of Orvieto. This miracle led to the universal feast of Corpus Christi, instituted by Pope Urban IV a year later. In Lanciano, we visited the site of the first and possibly greatest Eucharistic Miracle

recognized by the Catholic Church. In the 8th century, during Holy Mass after the two-part consecration, the host changed to Flesh and the wine to blood. Both are visible in the reliquary housed in the Church of St. Francis.

Our skeptical world regards religion as a private matter. The sacraments are not real but merely symbols of our illusions. Hope is just wishful thinking. I, like Thomas, had doubts, and our Lord condescended to provide proof for all to see. Standing in these churches, viewing the reliquaries, I realized I was not just pondering ancient relics. These

wonders are living indicators of hope. Such hope is the heart of the Catholic Church's teachings. "In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist, 'the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially contained.*'" CCC1374

Our Lord is shouting through the noise of our busy world, "Come to me. I am here." Hope is the unwavering belief that God keeps His promises. I found the doubts I harbored vanished in the presence of these Eucharist Miracles.

Though my hope of seeing the Pope was dashed by uncontrollable circumstances, the Oklahoma CDA pilgrimage was still an unforgettable journey. There is so much Catholic history rooted in Italy. Words cannot describe the stunning craftsmanship of centuries-old architecture, the artwork that remains so vivid today, and the extensive historical monuments, beautiful Cathedrals, and exquisite Basilicas that made this pilgrimage genuinely inspirational. I encourage every Catholic Daughter to go on a pilgrimage. Not everyone will be able to journey to Italy; however, there are opportunities to travel to religious sites in every state. Check with the diocese to see where you might go. A pilgrimage can provide you with time to honor a saint, a chance to receive forgiveness for a sin, or maybe answer life's difficult questions. For sure, it allows you to leave your everyday life and follow a path of contemplation and prayer. A Jubilee pilgrimage is a path to hope. 🌟



Church of St. Francis in Lanciano



Praying in Lanciano



Reliquary in Lanciano

## Texas JCDA STATE CONVENTION



Yvette Griego  
National Director  
National Youth Chairman

The 31st Biennial Texas JCDA State Convention, themed “Come to the Table,” took place in San Antonio with over 220 attendees. JCDA members from across Texas, JCDA Court Chairmen, Past Texas State Officers, parents, and many Catholic Daughter volunteers participated. Congratulations to the outgoing JCDA State officers, for a job well done. Welcome to the new 2025-2027 JCDA Texas State Officers

Thank you for saying YES to this important office. Peggy Supak and Sheila Martinka have served for the past 12 years as Texas JCDA State Co-Chairmen. They have selflessly dedicated many hours guiding and mentoring the State JCDA Officers. Monsignor John Peters has served as the Texas JCDA State Chaplain for over 40 years and continues to serve in this capacity. With the continued support of these individuals, the JCDA Courts continue to thrive and grow. There are currently 61 Texas JCDA courts with over 1,000 members. With this continuity of Chairmanship and with parental involvement, the JCDA members have embraced the JCDA Motto: “Be Useful,” and the goals of “Love God, Serve Others and Live Nobly.” National Regent Susan Mone and I had the honor of attending this well-organized event.

Friday evening, Game Night served as the opening ice breaker and was enjoyed by all attendees. The game “Flags Up” was particularly popular, as was “Ships and Sailors,” which caused much laughter among the participants. During each break, Lindsay Tomlinson took the opportunity to lead the girls in line-dancing, in which they were always ready to participate.

On Saturday morning, the girls participated in “Jumpin’ for Jesus,” which was the designated charity project for the convention. Each court contributed a pack of diapers to be donated to Annunciation Maternity Home. As a result of the generous contributions from the JCDA Courts,



*Pictured, left to right, Eden Rodriguez, President; Elena Supak, First Vice State President; Sophia De Los Santos, Second Vice State President; Ava Ruelas, Secretary; and Savara Lerma, Reporter.*

several pregnancy shelters received support through the diaper drive.

The 31st Biennial JCDA Convention was called to order by JCDA State President Marisol Rodriguez. Monsignor John led the opening prayers and the Blessing of the Marian Shrine; this was followed by the presentation of Banners and Seating of Delegates. The business of the convention went smoothly throughout the day. National Regent Susan Moné commented on how well the JCDA State Officers conducted the business at hand and stayed on schedule with each of the officers completing her task, of course this was accomplished with the guidance of Peggy and Sheila, close at hand.

Each JCDA court then reported on various activities that they participate in annually. Many courts regularly visit





*Front row, left to right: State President Eden Rodriguez, First State Vice President Elena Supak, Second State Vice President Sophia de los Santos, National Youth/JCDA Chairman Yvette Griego, National Regent Susan Moné, National Director Rosie Stockwell, State Secretary Ava Ruelas and State Reporter Savara Lerma. Back row, left to right: New State Youth/JCDA Co-Chair Linsay Tomlinson, State Chaplain Msgr. John Peters, Past State President Marisol Rodriguez, Past State First Vice President Mary Sue Filip, Past State Second Vice President Celeine Fabre, Past State Secretary Viena Prinkey, Past State Reporter Vivianne Stewart, State Youth/JCDA Co-Chair Peggy Supak.*

nursing homes to pray the Rosary and bring snacks for the elderly. Other courts reported contributing to local pregnancy centers. Several courts also hold coat drives to be donated to women's shelters. Another noteworthy project is that many courts visit and clean the graves of babies during All Souls Day. These are but a few of the many projects the JCDA Court members participate in throughout the year.

The State Officers presented a skit at the end of the day; here is a brief overview given by Peggy Supak. The state officers provided an invitation to certain selected members along with a sign. The invitation was opened by each person. The message inside was "Come to the table." There was a table up front with nothing but a Bible and Msgr. John sitting there. Each of the invitees came forward with their respective sign and held it up: "Sinner," "Liar," "Bully," "Alone," "Angry," "Jealous," "Doubter." All the while, the song "Come to the Table" by Sidewalk Prophets was playing. At the point in the song where the words are about being redeemed or

set free, each member went to the table and their sign was exchanged for a sign that said "Redeemed" or "Set Free" as stated in the song to symbolize that all are welcomed at the table of the Lord no matter where they are in their life. Each member that participated was given a mini-Bible keychain for their participation. You can Google the song/video to get the idea. I think it was very powerful.

Texas State Regent Mary Jane Albert at the time was unable to attend but sent a note to be read by First Vice State Regent Virginia Olsovsky. She encouraged the graduating seniors to join a local CDA court, with their experience in JCDA that it would benefit both them and the court. She also emphasized to all JCDA members to go out and be disciples of Christ as they are the future of CDA!

Congratulations to the newly elected state officers. Best wishes for a successful term. The success of this convention was due to many hours donated by many dedicated CDA members. It was a pleasure and honor to be in attendance as your National JCDA Chairman. 🙏



# National State and Territorial Officers Conference

• Scottsdale, Arizona • July 17-20, 2025 •



By Thomas A. Panas  
National Public Relations Chairman

*A very efficient and successful State and Territorial Officers Conference was held July 17-20 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. Space does not allow us to convey all the valuable and vital information that was presented at the conference. This story will present highlights and hear from attendees who express their opinions about the conference.*

Careful planning contributed to the Conference's excellence. Because it was held in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Arizona State Board pitched in. Arizona State Regent Lynn Wilson, a member of Court Daughters of St. Anthony, #2651, Casa Grande, Arizona, explains.

"The State Board began planning right after elections at our State Convention. We had a workshop in July with the State Board learning together and focusing on our new roles on our State Board. "We had phone conversations and emails with guidance from the National Board as to what they wanted us to set up and the time frame to have it completed. Susan is a wonderful National Regent and handles her position with grace and precision. We are in awe of her leadership skills."

The Conference began with 4:00 PM opening Mass on Thursday celebrated by National Chaplain Father Erick Villa and con-celebrated by other clergy present followed by dinner.

National Regent Susan Monè then banged the gavel and started things off. Susan introduced her National Board and welcomed the state and territorial officers and guests and paid particular attention to the State Chaplains and spiritual directors' presents. The clergy at these events is always a blessing, and Susan asked them to stand, and



*The Catholic Daughters National Board and Father Erick Villa, National Chaplain*

they were met with resounding applause.

Father Erick Villa, National Chaplain

Rev. James Caldwell, Oklahoma State Chaplain

Rev. Michael Erpelding – Iowa State Chaplain

Deacon Tim Myers – Spiritual Advisor California

Deacon Dennis Ouderkirk – Minnesota State Spiritual Adviser

Rev. Jason Palermo – Louisiana State Chaplain

Fr. Navil Rodrigues – Montana State Chaplain

Oklahoma State Chaplain Rev. James Caldwell found the conference to be "uplifting, joyous and upbeat as the National Board and its directors strive to accomplish the





*Everyone felt blessed and grateful for the clergy attending.*

business of the day, with a spirit of openness and charity toward the new members who have been elected by their courts and state boards. I also find my fellow priests who serve as chaplains to be faith filled and hopeful for CDA's in their states as well."

Father Caldwell has been Oklahoma State Chaplain since 2016. "I was asked by a Vice Regent to consider being the State Chaplain. When I accepted, I did not know much about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. So, it was a learning process to discover my role in the CDA. As I grew to understand CDA more, my motivation grew out of a deeper love for the ladies and their spiritual journey. I wanted to help enshrine charity and unity in relationship to their faith in God, and each other, as well as connect the Sacraments to their goal of serving others in charity and love and help unite a group of holy women who wish to love and serve the Lord. Even today, I am motivated by the beautiful faith of our Oklahoma State Officers and all the members of CDA as they express and live their faith daily."

Father Caldwell also enjoyed his interactions with his fellow clergy at the Conference. "We had conversations with each other, discovering new ways to be more available to the local councils, while at the same time, helping the State Board grow by being humbly aware of the trust given to them by the State and serving their sisters with unity and charity. We also talked about a deeper need for evangelization through catechesis and expressing the core tenets of our faith to help increase our awareness of 1) How God has got this for us, we have

to trust in Him, and 2) the desire and need to have God be the center and reason why we do all things, which are for His glory."

Another member of the clergy, National Chaplain Father Erick Villa, was present as a member of the National Board. Susan Moné shared some great news about him:

a) On June 8, Father Erick became a US Citizen

b) On July 1, he was named Rector of the Cathedral in the Diocese of Oakland, California.

The audience expressed their congratulations by applauding soundly.

Susan also extended special thanks to Carmella Mongold, Secretary to the National Regent, who unfortunately was hospitalized while at the Conference but is doing well, and Louisiana Second Vice State Regent Adrienne Saucier who stepped up to help in Carmella's absence, especially with technical matters during presentations.

Friday evening featured scholarship and contest awards presentations. Winners can be found on the CDA website [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org), Activities tab, Thursday Conference events, or email [Tompanas7@gmail.com](mailto:Tompanas7@gmail.com).

Friday morning focused on training for each State Officer position. National Regent-Elect Essie Walker began by explaining the responsibilities of the State Regents. New Mexico State Regent Crystal Montoya benefitted from Essie's presentation. "The State Regent presentation helped give me a clearer vision of the leadership, humility and spiritual strength required for this important position," Crystal said. "I appreciated the opportunity



*The Conference was held in a lovely environment.*



*The Sunrise Services were comforting and well-attended.*



*National Board members participated in the presentations.*

to meet the other state regents and network with them to share ideas, experiences, and goals for the next two years. I left the conference feeling more confident, better equipped, and motivated on a deeper level to serve and uplift the members of the wonderful state of New Mexico!"

Crystal, who is a member of Court San Jose #2252, Carlsbad, New Mexico, and has been a Catholic Daughter for 18 years, thought the Conference was great. "The State and Territorial Officers Conference was wonderful! I am filled with so much gratitude and renewed purpose after attending. Every detail - from the inspiring, entertaining presentations and beautiful liturgies to the thoughtful gifts left at our seats and joyful fellowship, the conference was a true reflection of our CDA mission. It was such a gift to be amongst women who are also passionate about faith, community and CDA."

Pennsylvania First Vice State Regent Lisa McCann agreed. "The Conference was very wonderfully prepared and presented. Our National Board and Directors did an excellent job presenting. The spirituality of the Conference was outstanding also."

Lisa is a member of Court Westinghouse #759, Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. She is a third generation Catholic Daughter who has been a member for 20 years. She has been on the Pennsylvania State Board since 2013, and this is her sixth Conference.

Lisa was energized by First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette's training. "The presentation on First Vice State Regents was insightful and has renewed my energies to better serve my sisters in Pennsylvania."

Second Vice National Regent Nancy Bambenek gave a creative and hilarious presentation on the State Secretary position costumed as Dolly Parton from the movie "9 to 5." She was assisted by "sisters" National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson and National Director Barb Wiechmann. Conference "first timer" California State Secretary Yvette



Manard thought that Nancy's presentation "definitely woke everyone up and was an effective way to emphasize the value of this position to the CDA. The recap of the duties of this office serves as a reminder of the need to accurately record the history of our Courts."

Yvette, who has been a member of Court Compton #942, Compton, California, for 10 years, thought the Conference was "informative, spiritual and lively! The numerous training sessions, prayer breaks, interactive presentation/displays and opportunities for fellowship were well thought-out and executed."

First timer Nebraska State Secretary Marilyn Lowery also liked Nancy's presentation. "Since everyone learns in different ways, having a Fun Presentation that was



*A glance at the Meeting Room from the back.*



*CDA sisters pause outdoors for a picture.*

auditory was a good way to meet those needs for a learning experience. It breaks things up and gets you motivated to start learning again."

Marilyn, who has been a Catholic Daughter for 31 years and is a member of Court Mary Immaculate, #2182, Omaha, Nebraska, added that she "not only learned things for my duties as the State Secretary but also some processes/procedures that my local court needs to revise. All the CDA members were so friendly and helpful, which made a 'first timer' feel so much better and helped calm any nerves.

Marilyn explains why she decided to attend her first



*Attendees listened attentively to the presentations.*

Conference. "No one was elected Nebraska State Secretary at the State Convention in April, and I was asked to be the State Secretary by our new State Regent, Kim Meduna. I was installed in the Wal-Mart parking lot! Kim asked all the State Officers to attend the Conference as a learning experience and time for us to get to know each other."

Fellow Nebraska State Officer and First Timer Nancy Vrbka said the conference "helped me network with lots of wonderful ladies. I now have a better understanding of the expectations of my new role with the Catholic Daughters. Not just the duties of the Nebraska State Treasurer, but also how the role is a part of the overall mission of the Catholic Daughters."

A member of Court San Salvador #576 David City, Nebraska, Nancy has been a Catholic Daughter for 16 years. She was "pleasantly surprised at all that I learned in two short days! I think training is a critical component of any office as it helps you transition quicker into your position."

Nancy really enjoyed First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette's "Coast to Coast Pilgrims of Hope" presentation. "Connie is such a humorous presenter. Anything she says is positive and inspirational. I love to take a pilgrimage any time I can. Knowing that I probably will not get to



*Florida officers with National Director Mary Ann Kizer.*

travel outside the United States to do so, I was excited to learn about more places to voyage to within the United States. California is a state I have not been to, that I would like to get to someday. I like the idea of being able to see several spiritual places in one trip! Look out California! You're now on my bucket list!!"

Connie also led Prayer Breaks, which were held throughout the conference to offer moments of physical and spiritual refreshment. During one of them First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette said, "God's love is sweeter than honey, and I've been on a diet for past two months, and I enjoy honey. As we explore the healing powers of honey, we are encouraged to turn to God's loving grace during times of need. Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. Just as honey heals the body, our words can bring healing to those around us."

For Alaska Territorial Regent Cecilia Stanley this was her first Conference as Regent, having attended previously as Recording Secretary. "My favorite thing was being able to 'SHARE' time with Catholic women from around the United States," Cecilia said. "To pray, converse, learn, laugh and meet with others who share faith and who serve in 'Unity and Charity.' I look forward to the Iowa National Convention."

Cecilia, who has been a Catholic Daughter for almost eight years, thought "the conference was wonderful! Meals were plentiful and delicious, the pool refreshing,



*Newbies from Nebraska!*



*Attendees Gather on the Lawn for a picture.*



*Iowa State Officers and State Chaplain Rev. Michael Erpelding*

rooms more than adequate. Having time to share with National Board members, Directors, and those from other states at meals and between sessions was great."

"The sessions were informative while presented with drama and humor. Seeing Nancy Bambenek's 'Dolly' and Connie Dronette's 'Cowboys,' I felt I had heard some of the items addressed at the National Convention in New Orleans, but this time I was able to focus and retain more of the suggestions and better understand my Regent position."

Cecelia commented on the similarities and differences between State and Territorial Regents. "Court St. Pius X is not affiliated with one parish; we have members from at least eight parishes. Though we are considered a local court, I don't know all our members. In some ways, that is like the State Regent trying to know all her local court officers from different cities around the state."

"Like State Regents we follow the National Bylaws, have Standing Rules for our court, conduct regular meetings, financial reviews, pay local and national dues and file reports. Where we differ is we do not have regular training for new officers, although I do have the support of past officers and especially regents who attend our officer meetings prior to our regular membership meetings."

Like so many in the organization, Cecilia is worried about



membership. "I don't think this is different from National, State, or Local Courts, but membership is proving difficult to maintain. Alaska had courts in Juneau, North Pole, Fairbanks and Anchorage. Now we are the only court."

Fellow Territorial Court Regent Ana Mc Bayne agrees. "As Territorials we have the same challenge as State Courts in getting more women to join the Catholic Daughters." Ana, who has been a Catholic Daughter for over 25 years and is Regent of Court Our Lady of the Americas #2344, Washington, DC, added, "The learning opportunities at the Conference are great but also with that is the fellowship with Daughters from other courts."

After National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson's presentation on the 1903 Society (the 1903 Society obtains donations to improve the facilities of CDA Headquarters in New York) the California State Board said they were so moved by Brenda's presentation that they donated \$5000 to the 1903 Society. The Minnesota State Board placed on their agenda a 10-year pledge and other states have mentioned donations. A tally will take place later.

Brenda mentioned that there are now 1041 operating courts with 1782 courts "lost and buried" in a dusty basement at headquarters filled with envelopes of disbanded courts paperwork. A reminder was given that there will be another Girls Trip to New York fund raiser. Details to follow.

Presenting on Standing Rules, National Director Nancy Bambenek asked the gathering, "Why do we have standing rules? Anybody know?"



*Fashion-forward North Carolina officers display patriotism with National Regent Susan Moné.*



*Montana State Officers with State Chaplain Fr. Navil Rodrigues are all smiles.*



*Virginia was well represented.*

Members of the audience responded, "They make court life easier offering continuity order and uniformity. They keep everything running smooth."

"What do Standing Rules not conflict with?" Nancy asked.

"By laws!" the audience responded.

Many in the audience then shared examples of standing rules created in their courts.

Youth was on the agenda and the Catholic Daughters' care, devotion and concern for our Youth took many forms. National Director Karin Dudash asked, "Why are we concerned about our Youth?" and the resounding reply from the audience was, "They're our future!"

Karin added, "tomorrow's promise lives in today's youth. It is the mission of our Youth Program to nurture personal and spiritual growth."

Karin and National Director and Youth Chairman Yvette Griego presented a beautifully created video with pictures and music on the JCDA.

Campus Courts Chairman Rita Carlson announced the two

Campus Courts in Iowa: Our Lady of Grace, #2591, Sioux City, Iowa, and St Theresa Lisieux, #2711, Ames, Iowa, attended the past Iowa CDA State Convention and assisted by displaying a showcase of their projects and charities. They participated in the business of the convention as Delegates and also provided music for the Masses.

Court St. Therese Lisieux sewed bibs and made prayer bouquets and delivered them to Martha House of Hope.

Court Our Lady of Wisdom, #2799, Brookings, South Dakota, was instituted in 2024. The members created blankets called Sleep in Heavenly Peace and in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus on campus delivered the blankets and 120 beds to Pine Reservation.

Rita added that there are currently four Campus Courts, and she is working on a fifth.

National Regent-Elect Essie Walker announced that a new National Charity has been established: Victory Junction in North Carolina. National Regent Susan Moné explained that Tutwiler Clinic was dropped as a National Charity, as was Covenant House some time ago, because they were moving in a direction at odds with Catholic Daughter values.

National Public Relations Chairman Tom Panas presented on SHARE and the CDA Website and pointed out that some of our National Projects and Charities like Human Life International, Labourè Society and Apostleship of the Sea advertise regularly in SHARE, which is a way for them to give back to the CDA by reducing SHARE production costs. He asked that members take that into consideration when making their charitable donation choices.

National Directors Barb Wiechmann and Brenda West



*South Dakota officers pause with the Blessed Mother statue.*



*Beaming smiles from New Mexico!*



*North Dakota officers with National Director Barb Wiechmann.*

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." The new formal dress code can be found in the Tools of the Trade under the Ceremonials Section, Number VII, on the CDA Website,

Explaining the CDA Disaster Fund, National Regent Susan Moné thanked the generosity of the Catholic Daughters: CDA donated \$47,000 for the disasters in Florida, Texas and California. \$2500 was given to Nebraska and Arizona, \$5000 went to the San Antonio Diocese as a kickstart. I can't thank you enough.

Susan asked everyone to keep our CDA Patroness, the Blessed Mother Mary, close to their hearts. She mentioned the bracelets from years ago with the question, "WWJD -What Would Jesus Do?" She suggested asking, WWMD - "What Would Mary Do?" suggested providing a 'seat' for Mary "so that all we do is done in Catholic Daughter Unity and Charity." ✨



# Meet Your State Regents



Cecilia Stanley  
*Alaska Territorial*



Judy Ostergaard  
*Arizona*



Lynn Wilson  
*Arizona*



Lorine Bakowsky  
*California*



Barb Ward  
*Colorado*



Ana Marie Mc Bayne  
*DC Territorial*



Luisa Long  
*Florida*



Chantal Manhart  
*Illinois*



Brenda Vore  
*Iowa*



Sheila Moore  
*Louisiana*



Kathy Monteil  
*Maryland*



Cindy Patriarca  
*Massachusetts*



Cathy Nelson  
*Minnesota*



Jo Ann Harper  
*Montana*



R. Kim Meduna  
*Nebraska*



Liza Marie Kupp  
*New Hampshire*



Theresa Dieterich  
*New Jersey*



Crystal Montoya  
*New Mexico*



Judy Sterling  
*New York*



Debbie Del Corro  
*El-Chayeb  
North Carolina*



Debra Johnson  
*North Dakota*



Jo Ella Newbury  
*Oklahoma*



Gail Holt  
*Oregon*



Margaret Giordano  
*Pennsylvania*



Julia Juarbe  
*Puerto Rico*



Michele Sage  
*South Dakota*



Virginia Olsovsky  
*Texas*



Jeannine A. Young  
*Vermont*



Chris Lippman  
*Virginia*



Theresa Trujillo  
*Washington*



Marilyn Bean  
*West Virginia*



Bernice Lansing  
*Wisconsin*



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# LEADERSHIP

## PERSPECTIVE, ACTION AND PERSEVERANCE



Rosie Stockwell  
National Director  
National Leadership Chairman

*“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”*

St. John Paul II

As the first quarter of the 21st Century closes, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas have continued to grow in Unity and Charity through Spirituality and Service. Moving forward, CDA has exhibited patience, which is the fruit of hope, having the confidence and courage that is necessary to help to build a future within the organization.

### Perspective

Hope is about expectation in how things will work out. Hope requires that we not only *look forward* (a vision) but also *move forward* (setting achievable goals). The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has experienced growth in its program of work, which is the Circle of Love, and the courts and members continue to achieve exceptional progress in all areas. The many projects that courts develop and bring to fruition are testament of how the members continue to hope for a better future. It is important to visualize success and impart that vision to the members.

### Action

As leaders in CDA, it is important that we see challenges as opportunities for growth and learning. Believing in our ability to act and be successful helps to build resilience in the face of adversity. Learn to believe in your ability as leaders and the capacity to influence members. It is the duty and responsibility of leaders to guide and motivate members to act. Being hopeful to build a future requires taking steps to create that desire.

### Perseverance

As we look towards the future in building hope for CDA, it is important to be patient and humble. Patience is the fruit of hope and courage is the steppingstone to overcome obstacles like fear and doing the right thing during difficult times. Remember that no goal is impossible and even small acts of kindness and generosity can lead to change. St. John Paul II tells us to not be satisfied with mediocrity, rather to never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged.

As the CDA organization builds hope for the future, let us recognize the importance of common-sense lessons, taken from an article titled *10 lessons from the book To Kill a Mockingbird*.

- Stand up for what is right, even when it is difficult.
- Be kind and compassionate to others, even those who are different from you.
- Don't judge others too quickly.
- Everyone deserves to be treated with respect.
- The world is not always fair.
- It is important to have courage.
- It is important to fight for justice.
- It is important to be compassionate and understanding.
- Everyone has something to teach us.
- It is important to have hope.

St. John Paul II tells us that *“The future starts today, not tomorrow”* and asks us to say “yes” to life, to love, to freedom, to peace and to hope. 🙏



### 59TH ANNIVERSARY FOR LOUISIANA COURT

Court St. Theresa of Avila #1955, Gonzales, Louisiana, celebrated its 59th Anniversary on February 15, 2025, with a banquet enjoyed by all. Special guests among attendees included, seated front row, District Deputy Regina Forsythe, 50 Year Member Eva Cagnolatti, court member Sharon LeBlanc, First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette, court member Jean Linn, Louisiana First Vice State Regent Sheila Moore and Regent Tracey Graffeo. Also in attendance was Court Chaplain Father Matthew McCaughey (back row).



### TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Court St. Juan Diego #2277, Corpus Christi, Texas, joyfully celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a Commemorative Mass followed by a luncheon. "We were especially proud to honor three of our charter members who continue to serve faithfully and remain active within the court," Regent Yvonne Solis-Recio said. "Their dedication and commitment are a testament to the enduring spirit of our sisterhood. It was a day filled with gratitude, reflection and joyful remembrance of the Court's many blessings over the years." In the photo, back row, Linda Guartuche, Christina Zuniga, Blanca McColley, Gloria Longoria, Cyndy Nesmith, Aida Rodriguez, Ida Zarate, Diana Sanchez (Charter Member), Josie Garcia (Charter Member), Letty Alonzo-Muniz, Lillian Downs and Janie Mejia-Gonzalez (Charter Member). Front row, Rebecca Galvan, Rosie Garcia, Minerva Solis, Olivia Perez, Vice-Regent Maria Zuniga, Regent Yvonne Solis-Recio, District Deputy Dora Martinez, Recording Secretary Lori Garcia, Olga Davila, Maria Rivera, Lydia Guartuche and Pearl Quintanilla.



### IOWA COURT CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

Court St. Andrew #1540, Sibley, Iowa, celebrated its 75th Anniversary on Sunday, June 8, following Mass with a luncheon and program. In the photo Iowa State Regent Brenda Vore presents a plaque to Regent Bonnie Gregg from the Iowa State Court congratulating Court St. Andrew on 75 years.



### THIRTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY FOR OREGON COURT

Court St Pius X #2335, Klamath Falls, Oregon, celebrated its 35th Anniversary in March. "We were blessed to have several charter members present," Barbara Rhodes said, "and they were honored and presented with flowers." The founding members present seen in the photo were Geraldine Mauro, Jeannette Hopper, Mary Ann Kelly, Mary Nelson and Irene Chambers.





### CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY FOR CALIFORNIA COURT

Court Compton #942, Compton, California, honored its 100th Anniversary at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Compton. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Marc V. Trudeau with con-celebrants Pastor and Court Chaplain Father Gilberto, Associate Pastor Father Roberto and Brother Philip. A wonderful anniversary dinner followed. Attendees, seen in the photo, included Court Compton members, JCDA Court Mother Lupita members, California State officers, local sister courts and parishioners.



### TENTH ANNIVERSARY FOR TEXAS COURT

Court St. Peter the Apostle #2690, Borne, Texas, honored their tenth anniversary. "We began our celebration with Mass, celebrated by Reverend Norm Ermis, Pastor of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Boerne," Regent Janice Almeida explained. "After Mass we moved to recognize our members beginning with lunch. The impact our members have had on our church community has been incredible. They are like the oak tree of the Texas Hill Country – their roots are strong, and their branches reach out to provide cover and grace. The planning committee did an outstanding job to make sure the event was memorable, personal and enjoyable." Anniversary celebrants in the photo, left to right, bottom row, Maria Ann Wladika, Mary Frances Teniente, Vickie Nickel, Arla Mangold, Patricia Anderson, Gloria Villanueva-Charter Member, Alma Hilburn, Barbara Franklin and Susan Markworth. Top row, left to right, Peggy Pillar, Sharon Mecke, Charlene Jones, Angela Hudson, Sydney Muenster, Kathy Hannig, Nancy Boerner, Marti de la Garza, Laura Balderrama, Judy Gleason, Judith White and First Regent Heidi Abshire. Court members not present: Lisa Reeh, Judy Joseph, Angie Lozano, Julia Cortez, Sr. Kathleen Higgins and Rose Jaeger.



*Correction: The story below was printed in the Spring Issue of SHARE with its court state wrongly attributed to Texas instead of North Carolina. We do apologize and have made the change.*

### NORTH CAROLINA COURT MAKES TEDDY BEARS

Court Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #2588, Havelock, North Carolina, held a workshop attended by 14 people to stuff teddy bears and make “no-sew” blankets to donate to the Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman. “We stuffed 30 bears and have accumulated over 11 blankets to deliver,” North Carolina State Treasurer Sandra Mullis explained. “Victory Junction is a camp for children with serious medical conditions. Each child takes a bear and blanket home from camp. Our Court will make a delivery and take a tour in May.” In the photo court members gather around the stuffed bears and no-sew blankets they created. (Ed. Note: Victory Junction was recently designated as a Catholic Daughter National Charity. For more information on Victory Junction go to [www.victoryjunction.org](http://www.victoryjunction.org).)



### CALIFORNIA COURT DONATES HYGIENE KITS

Members of Court Our Lady of Peace #1306, San Bernardino, California, gathered to deliver Hygiene Kits for the homeless to Mary’s Table and Catholic Charities. The hygiene kits, in individual plastic bags, included a selection of Shampoo/Conditioner, Toothbrush, Soap, Hand sanitizer, Toothpaste, Razor, Deodorant and Lotion. “We thank Fr. Berry of Mary’s Table and Yelena Ruiz of Catholic Charities for their kindness and hospitality,” Newsletter Reporter Eva Garza said, “and plan to work with them again in the future.”



### ARIZONA QUILTERS HELP PREGNANCY CENTER

Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2278, Sun City West, Arizona, delivered 90 baby quilts to the Choices Pregnancy Center’s home office in Glendale. The court’s Circle of Love Quilt Making members have been involved in quilt making for more than 20 years. Committee Chairperson Joan Cosson said, “the quilt makers meet every Friday to continue this Circle of Love project. It is a joy to provide quilts to an establishment that has been “Speaking life and Spreading Hope since 1983.” Pictured with the quilts, left to right, quilt makers Joan Cosson, Shirley Rahilly, Cathy Young, Marie DelRose McFadden, Shirley Wilson and Rose Dziebala.



### CHRISTMAS CHEER FROM CALIFORNIA COURT

Before Christmas a grandmother caring for five grandchildren under the age of eight contacted a parish in San Jose and asked for help with Christmas. A member of Court San Jose #281, San Jose, California, contacted Regent Theresa Cetani and the Court decided to adopt this family for Christmas. Regent Theresa explains. “We were happy to provide the family with two gently used televisions (the grandmother had asked for one), a filled stocking for each member, a nativity set, Christmas lights and gifts of clothes and toys for each child and the grandmother. Gift cards for food were also given by our members. The family was most grateful, and the members of our court were so pleased to bring happiness and love to this family for Christmas. We had such fun doing this we wanted to share our story with all Catholic Daughters!” The court’s generous gifts to their adopted family can be seen in the photo.

### IOWA COURT HOLDS SOUP FUNDRAISER

Court Cedar Rapids #1768, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, held a Soup Supper Fundraiser to raise funds to provide financial assistance to seven seminarians and two religious as well as the Seminary Tuition Fund. The court has assisted in this project for the past several years, providing soups, desserts and volunteers. In the photo court member Lois Hickman does dishes with three other volunteers.





### LOUISIANA COURT CREATES EASTER BASKETS

Members of Court Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #2165, New Orleans, Louisiana, gathered to assemble Easter baskets for their annual raffle fundraiser. Strong ticket pre-sales and church sales made it successful. Pictured with their beautifully wrapped Easter baskets are Martha Davis, Regent Kim Ranson, Callie Fouquet, Dawn Brechtel and Lena Crombie.



### HOMELESS YOUTH AIDED BY NEW MEXICO COURT

Court San Miguel, #2730, Socorro, New Mexico, provided support to 15 young people in their community who were experiencing a form of homelessness. "Our court purchased toiletries for them to have during upcoming school break," Patricia Landavazo said. "The court looks forward to supporting these youth moving forward. We were unaware that this was happening in our backyard." In the photo, left to right, Valerie Moore, Samantha Vivian-Gonzales and Bernice Montoya.



### FOOD PANTRY HELPED BY MINNESOTA COURT

Members of Court St. Bernard #886, Lismore, Minnesota, decided at their February meeting to promote a "fun" contribution to the local food shelf. In honor of March Madness members of the parish cluster were invited to donate "everything but the kitchen sink" during the month of March. A bin was set up in the foyer of St. Anthony Church for the many donations. March is a "matching grant" month for the Manna Food Pantry in Worthington, where the items were donated. Pictured are the 238 pounds of items collected.



### NEBRASKA COURT HELPS HOSPICE

Members of Our Lady of Faith Court #2604, Omaha, Nebraska, prepared and served the community meal at Josie Harper Hospice House during May. The monthly community meal provides Hospice House residents with the opportunity to invite their family and friends to join them for a home-cooked meal. Staff members are also guests at the meal. A different church or community group sponsors the meal each month. Court members pictured left to right at the serving table, front row, Joan Prenosil, Dorothy Wahrman, Regent Colleen Haack, Financial Secretary Kitty Heimann, Joyce Zabawa, Louise Vodehnal, Mary Jo Sund and Juanita Hammen. Back row, left to right, Barb Hilton and Treasurer Karen Roth.

*Matthew 25: 36*

*"I was ill and you cared for me."*

*Verses researched and provided by Past National Regent Helene Shepard*



### NEW MEXICO COURT HOLDS BABY SHOWER

Court Santa Cruz #1298, Las Cruces, New Mexico, held a baby shower during their regular monthly court meeting. New Mexico Second Vice State Regent Bernadette Garcia explains. "Generous new gifts included blankets, diapers, hygiene products, baby carrier, baby bouncer, clothes of all sizes, bottles, hair products, from the shower were donated to CareNet, the local pro-life agency that helps mothers, fathers and babies. They even do sonograms now!" Court members are seen in the photo surrounding their plentiful gifts for CareNet.



### BABY SHOWER BINGO AT PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Court Rev. Patrick McArdle, #448, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, held its annual Baby Shower Bingo. "It was such a success this year!" Christine Surovec said. "As you can see in the photo we had a very large crowd, with fun, helpful people and delicious cakes to go along with wraps, veggies, etc. We were able to raise \$1,636 that will be split between the Gabriel Project, Mommy Shoppe and Koletton Kares. All three are organizations that assist families with young children who are struggling, and it is wonderful that we can contribute to their cause."



### BABY SHOWER HELD BY NEW YORK COURT

As a partner in a Diocesan program supporting families in need, Court Our Lady of Charity #2355, Flushing, New York, held its third baby shower at their parish of St. Michaels Church. The family selected has been referred to the women's support center for continued help for the entire family. Court members can be seen in the photo with the plentiful gifts they collected.



### PENNSYLVANIA COURT HELPS PREGNANT MOMS

Court St. Theresa #562 Blairsville, Pennsylvania, recently collected baby items for Lifeway Pregnancy Center in Indiana. Lifeway offers pregnancy education, nursery items, parental skills, maternity and infant clothing for the community of Indiana and surrounding area. Pictured with a table full of useful gifts for the Center are members of the court along with Lifeway Executive Director Crystal Evans.

*Romans 12:4-5*

*"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."*





### **SOUTH DAKOTA COURT SUPPORTS BOYS RANCH**

Court Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids, South Dakota, collected hygiene items for the McCrossan Boys Ranch of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The court presented these items to Sarah Burman, an employee of McCrossan Boys Ranch, when she came to speak to the court at the April meeting. "McCrossan Boys Ranch opened in 1955 as a private, non-profit residential group care facility," Vice Regent Alice Majeres explains. "It reaches out to troubled boys between the ages of nine and twenty who have experienced conflict in family, school or community and provides one-on-one counseling, education and the love and care that many of them long for." Pictured around the table of gifts for the boys are, left to right, front row, Sarah Burman, Bernie Scherff, Peggy O'Brien, Judy Welbig, Donald Kolbeck, Sheila Welbig, Mary Fox, JoEllen Klein, Pam Hegge, Kaye Reecy and Mariah Roemen. Back row, Alice Majeres, Patty Vogel, Mildred Schmidt, Judy Fiegen, Stephanie Wolles, JoAnne Lee, Renae Livingston, Teresa Huntimer, Julianne Baustian, Mary Jo Shelquist, Nancy Anderson, Karla Siemonsma, Bev Lacey, Deb Wolles and Diane Keimig.



### **TEXAS COURT SUPPORTS YOUNG MOTHERS**

Court Anna Poth #1178, Poth, Texas, held a "Savior Change" baby bottle coin drive to benefit the Seton Home Women's Shelter. Seton Home, named in honor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, opened in San Antonio in 1981 as a shelter for young mothers. Seton Home strives to break the cycle of abuse and poverty by providing a caring home, education and support services necessary to transform the lives of pregnant and parenting teen mothers and their children. In the photo court members, Joyce Labus, left, and Cheryl Kotara, right, present a check for \$1,735.42 to a Seton Home representative.



### **BABY SHOWER BY TEXAS COURT**

The May meeting of Court Madonna, #1817, Dallas, Texas, convened with very good attendance and a celebration of the court's annual Baby Shower. "Members brought unwrapped gifts and money to be used for purchase of other needed items," Gloria Castillo said. "All gifts were given to parish families in need." In the photo, delivering gifts to be wrapped and delivered are Pat Peavy, Patsy Berg, Teresa Kleineck, Virginia Looney and Jo DeLira.



### **WASHINGTON COURT HELPS HOMELESS**

Members of Court Caruana #906, Yakima, Washington, brought donated items to their April meeting. After the meeting Spiritual Enhancement Chair Linda Gabel instructed members to walk down the tables, assembly line style, to fill gallon zip-loc bags with items for a homeless person such as socks, pop-top can of soup, a spoon, and other items we hoped would be useful. Linda Gabel adds, "The finishing touch was a personal note of support and encouragement. Washington State Chaplain Father Ibach explained that CDA had these bags available to distribute to parishioners after Mass. Parishioners were advised to carry them in their cars as something handy to gift to someone in distress on a street corner. The bags were taken up eagerly by parishioners on their way out the church doors." Court members pictured sitting, left to right, Washington State Regent Thereasa Trujillo and Linda Gabel. Standing, left to right, Cathy Schliemen, Margarita Lopez, Lois Bernhardt, Karen Fortier, Toni Kirschman, Arzetta Rarick, Arlee Brown, Jonella Leadon, Lucy Schilling, Jean Forster, Elaine Perko, Katie Pitzer and Fr. Ibach.



### ARIZONA COURT AT STATE CONVENTION

Court Daughters of St. Anthony Court #2651, Casa Grande, Arizona, sent five delegates and four alternates to the 33rd Arizona State Convention in May 2025. The theme was “Woman Warrior of God” and the 33rd Biennial Convention was in memory and in honor of Immediate Past State Regent and Past National Director Irene Gramza. Outgoing State Regent Lorrie Holland was honored and thanked for her four years of service. Lynn Wilson was elected State Regent. Five Past Court Regents attended, seen in the photo, Margaret Hennessey, Mary Peoples, Chrissie Jenkins, Carolann Di Muzio and Jordan Taillon.



### COLORADO COURT POLISHES VESSELS

Court Holy Family #1794, Security, Colorado, polished the church vessels in preparation for Holy Week at St. Dominic Church. Pictured are Vickie Chiment, Linda Marsh (who arranged this event) and Louise Johnson. Publicity Chair Rhonda Bauer also assisted and took the picture.



### LENTEN RETREAT BY ARIZONA COURTS

Court Daughters of St. Anthony #2651, Casa Grande, Arizona, joined Court St. Helen's of the Cross #2729, Eloy, Arizona, for a Women's Lenten Retreat. The Retreat, held at the St. Helen's of the Cross Church Hall in Eloy, was presented by Father Alonzo Garcia and the theme was ‘God's Grace - Our Journey Towards Christ Through Penance.’ “There were door prizes, raffle items and the food was plentiful with approximately 100 women in attendance,” Court Daughters of St. Anthony Regent Carolann Di Muzio said. “New friendships were made; and the two courts are hoping that they will be able to share and organize other activities.” Retreatants can be seen gathered for a photo.



### STATUE DONATED BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Court St. Joachim #2553, Madera, California, joined the local Knights of Columbus Council #3643 in front of the Holy Spouses Statue. Court members assisted the Knights to purchase the statue, which is dedicated to Mary Shearer. Pictured is Fr. John Shearer with Regent Rosie Valdez, Financial Secretary Toni Waltermann, Treasurer Corinne Machado and Parliamentarian Nellie Uribe. The Knights are Grand Knight Juan Jaime Medina, Juan Carlos Medina, Ricardo Hernandez and Gilbert Hernandez. The logos of both the CDA and Knights are on the base of the statue.

*1 Peter 4:10*

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.”*





### IRISH BUNCO AT FLORIDA COURT

Court Mother Teresa #2582, Zephyrhills, Florida, hosted a St. Patrick's Day themed Bunco event at their home parish. "Leaping Leprechauns!" Past National Director Michele Bowman explains. "Eighty dice throwing attendees had an afternoon of fun and fellowship wearing all sorts of green and Irish garb. Everyone enjoyed trying their luck at raffles, winning door prizes and rolling BUNCO as many times as they could. Delicious snacks were provided by court members between rounds of play. Irish jokes and riddles from our shenanigans coordinator before each round also added to the fun. Proceeds were to help court members with expenses to attend the Florida State Convention in Jensen Beach, Florida. Irish blessings were had by all." Court members can be seen in the photo in their festive Irish garb.



### MARYLAND ANNOUNCES NEW COURT

Court Divine Mercy #2821, Baltimore, Maryland, was instituted on Sunday, May 25th at New All Saints Catholic Church. All members of the Maryland State Board were present along with many Past State Officers, incoming State Officers, and members-at-large from various Maryland Courts. State Chaplain Rev. Christopher Moore con-celebrated the Mass along with pastor Rev. Kenny Udumka. Maryland State Regent Hannah Bea Merez led the membership pledge to the 34 charter members. Pictured are the new charter members with Father Moore and Court Divine Mercy's Spiritual Advisor Sister Brenda Cherry.



### LOUISIANA COURT HELPS VETERANS

Court Circle of Love #2756, Zachary, Louisiana, donated a van full of snacks and sodas to the Louisiana Veterans Home. Their mission is to provide comprehensive care and quality service to Louisiana's Veterans and their families, regarding health care, education, disability benefits, long-term care and burial honors. Pictured left to right are court members: Angel Fisher, Janet Kelley and Jackie Deslatte.



### MINNESOTA INSTALLS NEW STATE OFFICERS

The Minnesota State Convention was co-hosted by Court St. Anne #1840, Medford; Court Owatonna #1180, Owatonna; Court Sacred Heart #1424, Waseca; and Court St. Mary Peter #1864, Mazeppa-Bellechester. "We were honored," Minnesota State Regent Cathy Nelson said, "to have National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson present as our National Supervisor and Convention Advisor." New state officers in the photo, left to right, State Treasurer Darlene Hight, First Vice State Regent Lisa Ouder Kirk, State Chaplain Fr. James Starasinich, State Regent Cathy Nelson, Second Vice State Regent Lori Mickelson and State Secretary Linda Schons.

*2 Corinthians 5:17 New beginnings*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."*



### MISSISSIPPI COURT PREPARES EASTER BASKETS

Court St. Paul the Apostle # 2762, Tylertown, Mississippi, prepared Easter Baskets for Adopt a Family's, tornado victims and others. Seen with their beautifully decorated Easter Baskets, left to right, Darlene Rio, Adaire Cantrelle, Karen Kinler, Cindy Rome and Ramona Tucker.



### PRAYER BLANKETS BY NEW MEXICO COURT

Court Our Lady of Fatima Court #1293, Roswell, New Mexico, makes prayer blankets. "The blankets were made on Monday, March 10th and taken to be monogrammed on Tuesday morning," Mary Ann Delgado explained. "The blankets were ready to be picked up by noon on Tuesday. On Thursday, March 13th, after Adoration, Father Jarek, who can be seen in the photo receiving his blanket, blessed them. One of our court members took the pink one to give to her great-granddaughter. The 49er's one was given to Jim Mares. I understand he loved his blanket and has received lots of compliments." The court's nicely designed blankets can be seen in the photo.



### PRAYER BLANKETS BY NEBRASKA COURT

Court Our Lady of Fatima #1549, North Platte, Nebraska, takes blessed lap-sized prayer blankets to people who would like to be covered in prayers while ill. The Prayer Blankets are blessed at one of the weekend Masses. Court members are seen in the photo in church with blankets.



### NEW JERSEY COURT HONORS THE FALLEN

Members of Court St. Denis #1497, Manasquan, New Jersey, marched in the town's Memorial Day Parade. Mary Rottino explains. "We proudly displayed our new banner and matching shirts. Many spectators showed their enthusiasm with cheers along the way. At the end all parade participants and townspeople gathered at the Veterans Memorial Monument for a beautiful ceremony honoring local military members who had given their lives in service to their country. Regent Denise Olear and Vice Regent Mary Ann Nuzzo laid a wreath at the monument on behalf of our court." Pictured left to right, Karen O'Donnell, Pat Wladich, Diane Miller, Terry DePasquale and Mary Ann Nuz.

*Romans 12:10*

*"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."*





### GIFT CARD BINGO AT NEW YORK COURT

Court St. Pius X, #1690, Levittown, New York, held its annual Gift Card Bingo in May with over 200 people attending. Susan Maher explains. "Along with ten games of bingo where the winners took home gift cards of all types, cake and coffee were served, there was a 50/50 raffle, and extra gift cards were raffled off at the end of the event. Funds raised went to the Court's Education and Convention funds. The event was a huge success." Participants can be seen busily enjoying themselves at the well-attended event.



### NEW YORK COURT HONORS MEMORIAL DAY

Every Memorial Day Court Our Lady of the Lake #2585, Patterson, New York, marches in the Annual Memorial Day Parade. "This is a time to remember our fallen heroes: the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country," Regent Peggy Zambraski said. "Court marchers can be seen in their purple t-shirts taking a break at the parade."



### MAY CROWNING BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Nativity of Our Lady #931, Brockport, New York, joined the May Crowning. The joy of the occasion can be seen on beaming smiles of the members, top to bottom Dawn Rejewski, Marie Drennan, Pat Coon, Yvonne Iacobucci, Susan Decker, Charilla Conner, Theresa Petta and Mary Daniels. Front row officers, Treasurer Donna Glogowski, Regent Susan Parrino, Vice Regent Barbara Miller, Financial Secretary Arlene Cooper and Secretary Janet DeGraw.



### TRAFFICKING DISCUSSED AT NEW YORK COURT

Court Queen of the Universe #1702, Smithtown, New York, hosted a presentation on Human Trafficking by the local police department. Participants gained valuable information on the topic and tips on recognizing behaviors that could signal that a child is in danger. Parishioners were encouraged to donate items needed by rescued victims. Court members can be seen in the photo with the presenter.

*Jeremiah 1:5*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,  
before you were born, I dedicated you."*



### NORTH CAROLINA COURT SUPPORTS DIAPER BANK

Court Durham #1576, Durham, North Carolina, regularly donates diapers and time to The Diaper Bank of North Carolina. Recently, eight members spent two hours repacking adult diapers for distribution to needy clients. The court also delivered a large bin of various sizes of diapers from members. In the photo, left to right, front row, Stephanie Schnepple, Rose Hess and Jeanie Orencia. Back row, Jayne Stephens, Mary Jane Wiethe, Kathleen Schnepple and Sue Harris. Mary Hilchey is absent from the picture.



### LENTEN RETREAT BY OHIO COURT

Members of Court Ashland #1245, Ashland, Ohio, are shown at the "Pilgrims of Hope" Lenten Retreat hosted by the Court. Claudia Stupi explains, "As has become our tradition, the annual Lenten Retreat is an opportunity to interact with fellow Catholics in other parishes as we come together to eat, share and learn. This year, we were delighted to have in attendance 80 women and men from our own and other parishes." Retreatants can be seen in the photo around their Unity and Charity banner.



### PILGRIMAGE BY NORTH DAKOTA COURT

Members of Court Cardinal Muench #1852, Wahpeton, North Dakota, joined a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Carmel of Mary Monastery in Wahpeton. Members prayed a Rosary followed by a presentation on "Hope," by Mother Madonna. After the court meeting, Fr. Tiu offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation for plenary indulgence. Court members stand with Mother Madonna in the photo.



### OKLAHOMA HOSTS STATE CONVENTION

The 50th Biennial Oklahoma State Convention was held in Oklahoma City, and all courts were represented. The new state officers are State Regent Jo Ella Newbury, First Vice State Regent Debra Brzozowski, Second Vice State Regent Karla Ludwig, State Treasurer Laura Hamilton and State Secretary Alyson Kopycinski. "We celebrated with a Friday Fun Night," National Director Karin Dudash said. "In honor of the convention's anniversary, the theme for the activity was Fabulous Fifties. The ladies dressed in clothes from the 1950's. They sang karaoke and shared root beer floats. Everyone had a blast. 'It was the ginchiest, Daddy-O!'" Attendees can be seen with their wide state banner in the photo.

*Mark 6:31*

*"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*





### NATIONAL OFFICERS AT SOUTH DAKOTA CONVENTION

"It was a blessing to have National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson, National Director Barb Wiechmann and Second Vice National Regent Nancy Bambenek present a Leadership workshop at the South Dakota State Convention," South Dakota State Regent Judy Konechne said. The workshop said that if you want to reach a goal, take a small bite at a time and eventually you will conquer your goal. God knows each of you is capable of being a leader. Presenters in the photo, left to right, Brenda Anderson, Barb Wiechmann and Nancy Bambenek.



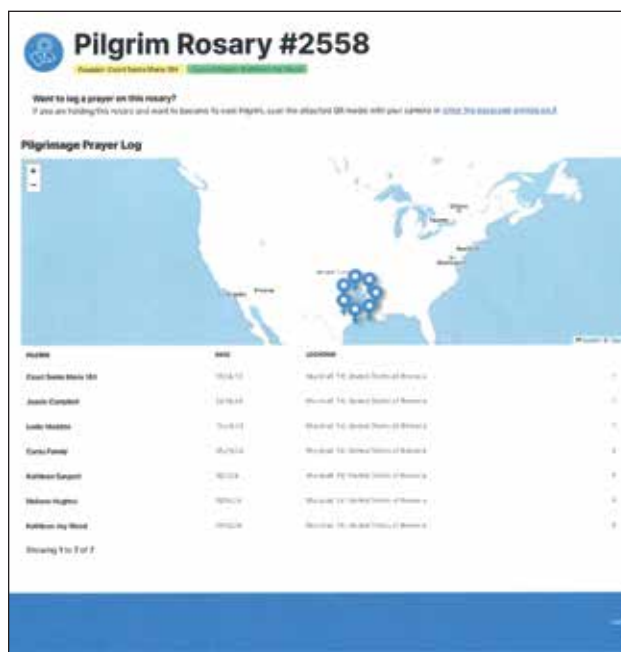
### MANY ACTIVITIES FOR TEXAS COURT

Court Aquinas #2266, Sugar Land, Texas, has had an active start to the year. In January court members served at the Beacon Homeless Services in Houston. February saw a Valentine Fundraiser, and the court held a March/April bake sale during Friday Lenten Fish Frys. In March, they held a Mass Card Donation Drive. And in April there was a pilgrimage to the historical St. Martin's Catholic Church, the "smallest church in the world." In the photo, beaming court members are outside their bus on their pilgrimage.



### TEXAS COURT HONORS ITS FORMATION

Jeri Ahart, Judy Arkangel and Helen Valvin founded St. Elizabeth Ann Setton with 136 new members, as Court Our Lady of the Seas #2662, San Antonio, Texas. Joyous court members can be seen in the photo celebrating the occasion.



### PILGRIM ROSARY FOUNDED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Santa Maria #184, Marshall, Texas, founded the Pilgrim Rosary. Karen Juno, Co-Chair, Circle of Love, explains. "The Pilgrim Rosary was created by a young priest in the Diocese of Galveston/Houston. It is designed to be prayed and passed on to another pilgrim. Our Pilgrim Rosary is prayed by our court for the special intentions of our Catholic Daughters. Thus, we become Pilgrim Daughters praying to our patroness, the Blessed Mother. As we journey on this Rosary Pilgrimage, we are mindful that the work of our court is a ministry and of the importance of lifting each other up in prayer." The picture is a copy of a Pilgrim Rosary map. Website: <https://pilgrimrosary.com>

*Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."*



### TEXAS COURT SUPPORTS PROCESSION

Court Isabella the Catholic #683, Laredo, Texas, played an essential role in assisting the community and Diocese of Laredo by providing water, fresh fruit and other snacks to the many people taking part in the Walk of Faith Diocesan Eucharistic Procession. Members of Court Isabella provided these refreshments to hundreds of pilgrims as they arrived at Christ the King Church for a break before they continued a few more miles on to San Agustin Cathedral. Court members can be seen in the photo with Bishop James A. Tamayo, Court Chaplain Fr. Toribio Guerrero and Fr. Joe Cadena.



### LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP AT TEXAS COURT

Court Mother Cabrini #1422, El Paso, Texas, hosted a "Love and Friendship" Dinner Dance at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church. "The evening began with a delicious chicken, rice and salad dinner," said Sandra Imperial. "There were many scrumptious dessert choices starting with chocolate covered strawberries and pretzels, cupcakes, cookies. Everyone enjoyed the evening and danced till their feet couldn't dance anymore. Proceeds were made from ticket sales, charcuterie plates, corsages, and a silent auction. Half the total collected was designated to financially assist the delegates attending the Texas State Convention." Seen in the lovely collage top left, Regent Yolie Zapata and daughter Zada Zapata. Bottom left, Veronica Granado and husband Jesus Granado. Ruth Medina and husband Jesus Medina. Sandra Imperial and husband Giovani Hyppolite, Elvia Lowree and husband Fred Lowree.



### STATE CONVENTION ASSISTED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Our Lady of Montserrat #2763, Flint, Texas, pitched in to make sure the Texas State Convention went smoothly. In the photo they can be seen gathered while going over the monthly meeting agenda at St. Mary Magdelene to prepare give away pouches with rosaries for the convention.



### TEXAS COURT HOLDS FIRST RETREAT

Court of the Cross #2374, Humble, Texas, held its first Women's Retreat with keynote speaker Deacon Rene Ramon. The Invocation was given by the court's spiritual guide, Deacon Ola. Retreatants can be seen with beaming smiles.

*Proverbs 17:17*

*"A friend loves at all times,  
and a brother is born for a time of adversity."*





### TEXAS COURT SHARES LOVE

Court St. Cecilia #1396, Orange, Texas, “Shared the Love” in February by visiting many shut-ins. Regent Jeanne Boudreaux explains. “Our court brought goodie bags and visited with more than 20 individuals. The love was certainly felt by many. This project brought a feeling of unity and charity to all who participated. Our hearts were filled just as much as those who received our visits and goodies.” Pictured, front row seated, Jeanne Boudreaux, Maria Hawkins and Janet Menchaca. Across the back Raquel Hendrickson, Gloria Pring, Rosa Fuller, Susan Bayliss, Odette Hill, Nanette Sonnier, Fances Lopez, Meredith Seay, JoAnn Waguespack, Peggy LaValley, Karen Toohey, Bobbie Ford, Linda Patrick, Valerie Pachuca, Daye Gunn, Nikol Berry, Shelly Borel, Pat Sonnier, Sara Quintero, Flo Calais, Patricia Daleo, Lesly Suppes, Mary Pachuca, Georgiana Bean and Angie Smith. Not pictured with photo credit Michelle Thiel.



### DAY OF REFLECTION BY TEXAS COURT

Count Sacred Heart #829, West, Texas, hosted the court’s annual Day of Reflection. Fifty-five ladies attended from nine surrounding parishes. The topic was Woman’s Role in the Catholic Church and how the court can spiritually impact the Community. The guest speaker was Trish Short. “Trish delivered a straight-to-the-heart message of hope and healing through God’s mercy,” June Danker said. “We displayed an information table on how you can spiritually enhance your Catholic journey as a woman in the church such as joining CDA, St. Vincent de Paul Society, praying for our seminarians and priests, etc. Our JCDA participated by serving us lunch made by our local restaurant, bakery and CDA members. The JCDA was a refreshing touch with beautiful conversation from young to mature ladies sharing and living our faith.” Juniors in the picture, left to right, Temple Kucera, Lydia Jordan, Tyree Slovak and Gianna Seale. June Danker is in the back, at the microphone.



### FAMILY DINNER AT TEXAS COURT

Court Annunciation #1962, La Grange, Texas, held its annual family dinner at which the four living Charter members were recognized, membership pins were given, and seven new members were received. Education Contest winners were presented with certificates and monetary prizes; the Sacred Heart Catholic School library was gifted \$500.00; and Memorial Scholarships in the amount of \$600.00 were presented to 17 graduating high school seniors who are children of the court’s members. Pictured from left to right, standing, Texas State Secretary Debbie Johnson, Second Vice State Regent Virginia Olsovsky, Chance Konvicka, Braxton Dahse, Holdyn Cooper, Kathryn Kosler, Aubri Bernsen, Elmer Saldierna Mendez, Ely Glisson, Joel Orlando Solorzano, Regent Sherry Hebert and State Treasurer Janet Purdy. Seated Jessica Torres, Celeine Fabre, Abril Garcia, Julianna Ramirez, Tania Lopez Anaya, Florencia Barron, Andrea Ortiz, Cynthia Arsibar. Not pictured Mackenzie Kates. Celeine Fabre and Kathryn Kosler received additional \$300.00 Memorial Scholarships for being Outstanding JCDA members.



### READ ACROSS AMERICA BY TEXAS COURT

Members of Court St. Gianna Beretta Molla #2691, Corsicana, Texas, participated in Read Across America by reading to students in preschool through third grade at James L. Collins Catholic School. A court member can be seen in the photo reading to attentive students.

*1 Timothy 4:12*

*“Set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”*



### BABY SHOWER BY TEXAS COURT

Court Bishop Odin #1758, San Antonio, Texas, held a baby shower for the Gabriel Project at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church. "The Gabriel Project ministry assisted us in hosting this event," Cindy Tapia explained. "Many baby items such as diapers, bottles, wipes and clothes were donated. Our Youth Ministry also helped us by setting up and organizing the items. Over \$500 in monetary donations were also collected. Pastor Fr. Will Combs kicked it off with a beautiful prayer and blessing." Father Combs can be seen in the photo with court members at the baby shower.



### WEST VIRGINIA HOLDS STATE CONVENTION

"Women of Hope Lighting the Way" was the theme for the West Virginia State 52nd Biennial Convention as the State celebrated the 105th Anniversary of Catholic Daughters in West Virginia. Officers elected for the 2025–2027 term were Regent Marilyn Bean, First Vice Regent Sue Smith, Second Vice Regent Theresa White, Secretary Christine Robison, and Treasurer Beth Fitzgerald. West Virginia has 282 members and eight local Courts (six of which have celebrated 100-year anniversaries). Attendees pause for a photo, many in beautiful white.



### FLORIDA COURT JOINS MINISTRY FAIR

Court St. Anthony the Abbot #2816, Brooksville, Florida, participated in the Ministry Fair at the Abbot Catholic Church in Brooksville. The theme of the Ministry Fair was "Let Your Light Shine." In the photo at their table during the Ministry Fair are Regent Denise Gaarder, Amanda Humbs, Vice Regent Patricia Gibson, Linda Ermatinger and Dawn White.



### SANTA PUTS VIRGINIA COURT ON "NICE" LIST

Santa said, "ALL members of Court Redeemer's Angels #2456, Mechanicsville, Virginia, were on the NICE LIST this year!" Marybeth Maino said. "Redeemer's Angels were happy to partner with the Knights of Columbus #11042 as 'Santa's Helpers' for a very successful Breakfast with Santa." Santa's Helpers in the photo, left to right, Susan Hunrath, Virginia State Regent Chris Lippman, Kathy Donohue, Sharon Seifert and Marybeth Maino.



### WISCONSIN COURT HELPS DONUT SUNDAY

Court Pere Marquette #1058 Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, volunteered to set up, serve and clean up for Donut Sunday after Mass at St. Joseph Parish. Various organizations take turns in this fellowship each week. Pictured are Mary Lou Schroeder, Marian Mailand, Sue Christianson, Regent Jean Austad and Jane Schwoerer.





### MOM AND DAUGHTER AT IOWA CONVENTION

Rosemary Dornbier from Court Fidelis #342, Wesley, Iowa, attended the Iowa State Convention with her daughter, Anita Studer, of Court St. Joan of Arc #428, Creston, Iowa. Mother and daughter can be seen in the photo. "How wonderful to share our faith!" said Virginia Aguilar.



### IOWA COURT WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Court Our Lady of LaSalette #1585, Milford, Iowa, was pleased to add four new members to its membership. New members with bright smiles and the CDA Banner, left to right, Jennifer Davis, Ashtin Simpson, Denise Gannon and Barb Langel.



### SEVENTY-YEAR MEMBERS AT IOWA COURT

Three members of Court St. Katherine #266, Earling Iowa, were recognized for 70-year membership. The court visited Thelma Pauley, Florence Finken and Mary Ann Kramer in their respective nursing homes to present certificates. "Many stories were shared about life as a CDA member seventy years ago!" Betty Foxhaven said. "God bless our Lifetime members." Recipients can be seen in the two photos.



*Romans 15:7*

*"Therefore welcome and honor one another  
as Christ has welcomed and honored you, for the glory of God."*



### NEW MEMBERS JOIN IOWA COURT

Court Mary of the Assumption #1976, Manchester, Iowa, recently welcomed new members. Three of them are seen in the photo, Cathy Lillienthal, Karen Hempstead and Amy Reeder, along with court officers Dianne Larsen, Kathy Boeding, Linda Bessey, Marsha Luensmann and Nancy McDonald. Absent are two new members, Linda Scherbring and Barb Rettinger. Congratulations to all!



### NEVADA COURT HONORS NEW PASTOR

Court Our Lady of the Rosary #2226, Las Vegas, Nevada, honored Reverend Tony Udoh's Mass of Installation as Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church. Recording Secretary Eileen Quinn explains. "Our court was honored to join the church organizations that participated in the Mass and celebration of Reverend Tony Udoh's installation as pastor. We pray for Reverend Tony's continued spiritual guidance and love for us all in our parish family." Pictured, front row, left to right, Rose Lopez, Alma Arriola, Archbishop Thomas and Vice Regent Mary Lopez. Second row, Regent Jina Couvrette, Reverend Udoh, Juliann Williams, Nellie Bautista, Recording Secretary Eileen Quinn, Financial Secretary Toni Schulte, Vicki Springer, Dottie Meyers, Roberta Calabrese and Horensia Bellano.



### MASSACHUSETTS ANNOUNCES NEW STATE OFFICERS

New state officers in Massachusetts were joined by national officers to honor the occasion, left to right, State Treasurer Jennifer Pacheco, National Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Anderson, State Regent Cindy Patriarca, Fr. Wilfred Raymond, C.S.C, Mass Concelebrant, Holy Cross Family Ministries, Fr. Leo Polselli, C.S.C, Mass Celebrant, Holy Cross Family Ministries, Second Vice State Regent Alicia Baer and First Vice State Regent Mary Grace DiMartino. Seated, left to right, Past National Regent Helene Shepard and State Secretary Cathy Duford.



### NEW YORK COURT HONORS MEMBERS

Court St. Aidan # 1577, Williston Park, New York, awarded Membership Anniversary Pins to ten members. Pictured with broad "member smiles," left to right, AnnMarie Flynn (25 Years), Pat Hintz, Mary Jane Rooney, Jennifer Mueller, (20 Years), Regent Karen Egan, Vice Regent Erin DiLorenzo , Recording Secretary Diane Kurtz, (35 Years), MaryKate Carlucci (15 Years), Mary O'Keefe, Pat Lorusso (30 Years), Kerry McDonough (20 Years) Not pictured: Bernadette Pizzardi (20 Years).

*Psalm 90:17*

*"Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands!"*





### NORTH DAKOTA COURT CELEBRATES MOM AND DAUGHTER

At the June meeting of Court Immaculate Conception's #322, Bismarck, North Dakota, Elvira Rogstad and her daughter Sharon Renfrow were honored. "Elvira is our oldest member at 96," Regent Karen Selensky explained. "She has been a member for 63 years and her daughter Sharon Renfrow was just awarded her 25-year pin. Both are lovely ladies." Elvira is in the photo on the right next to her daughter Sharon, holding her 25-year certificate.



### THREE NEW MEMBERS FOR TEXAS COURT

Court Madonna #1817, Dallas, Texas, received three new members. "Regent Kathleen McGann has continued to bring new members to the court through her leadership and energy to do God's work by recruiting," Public Relations Committee member Gloria Castillo said. "To date she has more than doubled membership since her installation as Regent in September! Through the grace of the Holy Spirit Court Madonna is growing." Left to right Patsy Berg, Kathy Cavazos, Pat Hess, Betty Zipper, Kathleen McGann, Laura Grant, Rene Reyes, Patty Campos Castro, Karla Walters, Virginia Looney and Jill Castloo. Kneeling: Gloria Castillo and Theresa Kleineck.



### WOMAN OF THE YEAR AT PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Court St. Ephrem #2230, Bensalem, Pennsylvania, congratulated Dolly Maronski on being selected Catholic Daughters' Woman of the Year. In the photo National Director Peggy Guckin presents Dolly with a Catholic Daughter Woman of Year Pin and a planter for her garden.



### TEXAS COURT ACCOMPANIES PRIEST

Members of Court St. Thomas the Apostle #2290, Robstown, Texas, were able to spend quality time with Fr. Philip Panackal. Father is seen at the top of the picture with beaming court members





### SEVENTY-FIVE YEAR MEMBER AT VERMONT COURT

Catherine Salvador celebrated her 75th anniversary as a Catholic Daughter with Court St. Monica #1181, Barre, Vermont. Congratulations to Catherine, who can be seen smiling in the photo next to the CDA Banner.



### OUTSTANDING MEMBER AT WISCONSIN COURT

Barb Lee of Court La Crosse #1183, La Crosse, Wisconsin, was awarded The Most Outstanding Catholic Daughter of the Year at the Wisconsin State Convention. Barb was recognized for her award at the May 14 court meeting where she received an Outstanding Catholic Daughter pin, a red rose and a \$50 gift certificate. In the photo Financial Secretary Sandra Borreson, center, places the pin on Barb, while Regent Bernice Lansing, left, looks on.



### WEST VIRGINIA HONORS LOCAL COURT MEMBERS

West Virginia State is proud to honor the longest standing member of each local court at this year's state convention. Special recognition was given to Bernadette Law who has been a member of Court Victory #379, Weston, West Virginia, for almost 77 years. She was thrilled to be presented with a plush throw embellished with the CDA logo. When asked what her favorite part of CDA Bernadette was replied, "spending time with other women of faith." Pictured left to right is State Regent Marilyn Bean, Bernadette Law and Regent Donna Lake.



### NEW JERSEY COURT HOLDS EDUCATION NIGHT

Court Fulgens Corona #1684, New Monmouth, New Jersey, hosted its annual education night. Students in grades five to eight from St. Mary Elementary School presented their winning entries in poetry, art and essay, and received certificates of appreciation and monetary awards from the court. Additionally, two eighth grade students entering Catholic high schools in the fall each received \$1000 scholarships from the court, read their winning essays, and the court's education chair read their excellent letters of recommendation. Participants and winners can be seen sitting in the photo, supported by, last row, left to right, Principal Craig Palmer, Regent Kathleen Poracky, Education Chair Eileen Donohue and Member/Past New Jersey Education Chair Justine Romanelli.





### ARIZONA COURT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Court Our Lady of Guadalupe #2250, Phoenix, Arizona, offers scholarships to provide tuition assistance to students as they continue to grow in their Catholic faith and education. Treasurer and Scholarship Committee Chairman, Mary Graettinger explains, “Applicants in 2025 were asked to submit a short resume about their current family, school, community and church activities, and an essay about what it means to them to be a Pilgrim of Hope during this Jubilee Year. Two applicants were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships toward their Fall 2025 semesters at Xavier College Preparatory in Phoenix.” Congratulations to Karolina and Geovanna, who can be seen in the photo at the Awards Ceremony.



### SCHOLARSHIPS BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Court San Luis Obispo #1162, San Luis Obispo, California, presented scholarships to two students from Old Mission Catholic School who showed disciplined effort and dedication on their schoolwork and a positive attitude in their educational journey. Pictured are award recipients Kiara Moriarty, left, and Danny Garza.



### CALIFORNIA JUNIORS HOLD EASTER EGG HUNT

JCDA Court Mother Lupita members were responsible for the City of Compton’s Easter Egg hunt as a part of Earth Day Celebration at Gonzalez Park in Compton. District Deputy and California Webmaster Yvette M. Manard explains. “The members set-up the tables, hid the Easter eggs, staffed the tables and played with the kids. Fun day for all!” The Juniors are pictured with Compton Mayor Emma Sharif and JCDA advisor Maribel Lara.





### IOWA COURT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Court Our Lady of Good Counsel #216, Fort Dodge, Iowa, proudly awarded scholarships to St. Edmond Catholic School graduating seniors. In the photo, left to right, Sasha Jayda Hess and Alyssa Elbert, and to Lauren Gibb, recipient of the Outstanding Catholic Female Leadership Award. Scholarship Chair Marie Sheeder, right, in yellow, presented the awards.



### EDUCATION CONTEST BY IOWA COURT

Court Our Lady of LaSalette #1585, Milford, Iowa, sponsored their Education Contest. Court member Mary Beth Gehling received 2nd Place in Poetry, Division IV. Shown in the photo is Education Contest Coordinator Karen Naber, left, presenting Mary Beth, right, with her second place certificate.



### LOUISIANA COURT SUPPORTS CHILD LITERACY

Court Castile #197, Shreveport, Louisiana, created a booth on Literacy Lane at the Shreve Memorial Library Children's Book Festival. "Almost 800 children visited the annual event, celebrating the joy of reading and childhood literacy," Cathy D'Angelo said. "The children were each provided with a passport to be stamped as they rotated throughout the event. Several local authors autographed their works and answered questions, in addition to many hands-on exhibits. Each child created a hand puppet or wrote a short story at the CDA booth and took home a book provided by the Court. Laura Ross spearheaded event, focusing on the Circle of Love's Education Spoke." Susan Todd, Cathy D'Angelo, Callie Byrd and Letitia Miles are seen at their booth in the photo.





### EDUCATION CONTEST AT NEVADA COURT

Seen in the photo are education contest winners holding their certificates, court members and officers, front row, left to right, Yanira Perez, Alina Mendoza, Luna Lewis, Sophia Schifalacqua, Adam Salas, Leo Nguyen, Melina Perez, Mia Morales, Christelle, Cater, Alice Lift, Savannah Phillbeck, Dominik Linder- Nieves and Carson Smith. Second row, left to right, Recording Secretary Susan Buskevicius, Irene Whelan, Yessica Mendoza, Nicole Hermes, Regent Lillian Proce, Leonie Frisbee, Nancy Kerin, Treasurer Theresa Bellajaro, Financial Secretary Bonnie Biscoe, Leslie Valpiani and Alicia Perez. Third row, Vice Regent Bernie Schools and Deacon Mike Underwood.



### MAY CROWNING BY MINNESOTA COURT

Members of Court Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton, Minnesota, processed into church carrying flowers to be placed before the Blessed Virgin Mary for the May Crowning on May 18. Seen in the photo is Gwenna Keleher, daughter of Tracy and Michael Keleher, who crowned Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth.



### CONTEST WINNERS AT PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Court Bellevue #655, Bellevue, Pennsylvania, recently presented their Education Contest awards to six students at Northside Catholic Academy and eight students at Bishop Canevin High. The students submitted poetry, essay, art and photography entries. All students who placed received a certificate and monetary award. Winners can be seen in the photo montage holding their certificates (two students were absent from the awards ceremony).



*Colossians 3:23*

*“Whatever you do, work heartily,  
as for the Lord and not for men.”*



### OREGON COURT AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP

Court Our Lady of Perpetual Adoration, #2481, Gervais Oregon, congratulates the 2025 Vivian Duda Memorial scholarship winner Frankie Lear. Frankie, who was awarded \$2000, will complete her sophomore year at Eastern Oregon University this June, and will continue pursuing her degree in Marketing in the fall.



### DALLAS JUNIORS HONOR GRADUATES

JCDA Court Mary Immaculate #1719, Dallas, Texas, recently honored their two graduating seniors in a special way by presenting each of them with a silver Miraculous Medal. Genie Dunn explains. "This meaningful gesture served not only as a recognition of their accomplishments but also as a reminder of Mary's loving protection and guidance as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. Both girls were charter members of our JCDA court in 2013." Pictured are Natalia Delgadillo and Isabella Ruiz.



### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Our Lady of Grace #1734, Rowena, Texas, announced two scholarship award winners. In the photo, Regent Patricia Vancil, center, extends congratulations to Caleb Braden, left, who received \$1,000.00, and Sheldon Book, right, who was awarded \$1,500.00. Sheldon was also awarded \$350.00 for the court's annual Graduate's Award. Both winners read their award-winning essays at the celebration of the court's 69th Anniversary on May 20, 2025.



### TEXAS COURT ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to the recipients of Senior Scholarships presented by Court Our Lady Queen of the Lake #2364, Lake Jackson, Texas. Seen in the photo, left to right, Presenter Lynette Walsh, Ella Atkins, Daniellé Winkler, Luke Futschik, Ariana Garza, Konnor Donovan, Stephen Calhoun and Scholarship Chairman Juanita Oppermann. Each recipient was awarded a one-thousand-dollar scholarship. Money was raised from the annual chicken spaghetti fundraiser, silent auction and raffle ticket sales.





### EDUCATION AWARDS AT TEXAS COURT

Court Our Lady #2337, Dallas, Texas, presented and celebrated local and state awards for the 2025 Education Contest. “It was a time of joy and celebration for the students, parents, teachers and administrators,” Estelle Lara said. “Students received recognition for their creative entries representing their faith. This year a record 211 entries were submitted!” Winners can be seen in the photo holding their certificates, with court members Education Contest Chair Darcy Perreault, Anna Everage and Estelle Lara.



### HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS FROM TEXAS COURT

Court Loving Mother of Mercy #2689, Brownsville, Texas, awarded scholarships to four High School Graduating Seniors. Pictured left to right (scholarship committee members in white) are Blanca Lambert, Hilda Mancillas, Yolanda Zamora, Giovana Godinez (\$500), Daniel Flores (\$500), Melanie Garza (\$250 Service Award), Antonio Lambert (\$500) and Irma Pena. “We are so proud of our graduates who serve at Our Lord of Divine Mercy Parish,” Emma V. Martinez said.

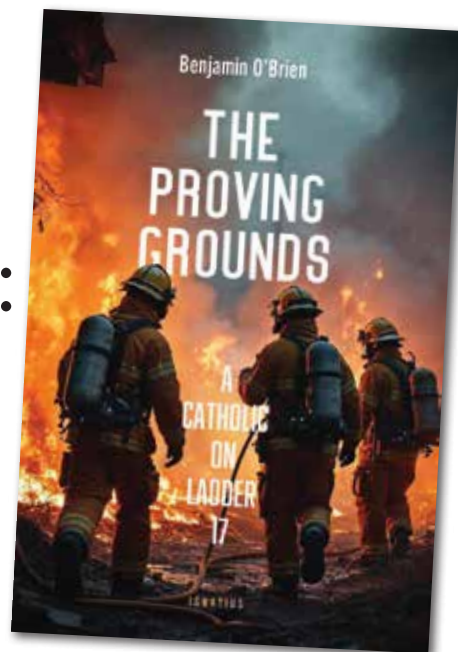
# THE PROVING GROUNDS: A CATHOLIC ON LADDER 17

By Benjamin O'Brien

(Ignatius Press, San Francisco, California, 2025)



Reviewed by  
Peggy Eastman  
Past National SHARE Editor



In recent times, national and local news have been full of disastrous fires, such as those that ravaged Los Angeles. What is it like to be a person of strong faith on the high-stress front lines of firefighting? Benjamin O'Brien answers that question in this fast-paced, fascinating, honest book.

O'Brien has been a firefighter since 2008. He recounts how as a young man starting out, he encountered bullying and the snide comments of some colleagues who were not respectful of religion or of women. But he also encountered men who showed remarkable heroism, courage and selflessness.

This book is a compelling behind-the-scenes look at a tough, competitive workplace unfamiliar to most of us. The work is dangerous, physically demanding and exhausting. It can require split-second decision making to save lives. It can be very hard on families; O'Brien and his wife Katelyn, who live in Wisconsin, have four children.

Although there are female firefighters, the world O'Brien describes is predominately male. There are vivid, specific descriptions of spending nights in the fire station, suiting up, keeping the hoses and equipment in good shape, walking into dark, smoke-filled hallways, cutting people out of cars and helping paramedics ease injured victims onto backboards. The dialogue is snappy and real. It isn't all emergencies and rough and tumble: there are scenes of familial camaraderie as the men work in the kitchen and share meals together.

The author, an active member of the Knights of Columbus, is never preachy about his religious beliefs; he is one of the guys, balking only when men's magazines are passed around and religion or women are demeaned. He endures bullying until he comes to terms with it. There

are lessons here about taking Jesus' message of love and forgiveness into a sometimes-hostile work environment. There are also lessons about the importance of effective teamwork and shared goals. There are heartening glimpses of the power of prayer.

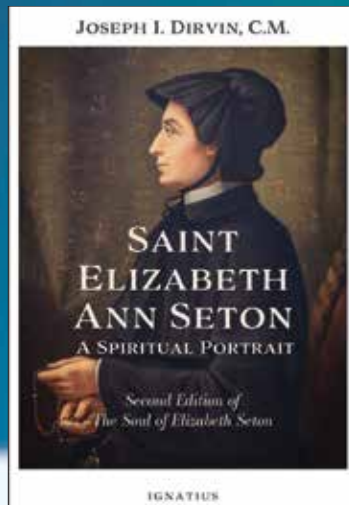
The conflict between the secular world and a worker of strong faith is well defined in this well-written book. If you have ever had to stand up to your faith in a secular setting you will relate to O'Brien's position. What sacrifices and choices are required to do the best job you can while not compromising your religious beliefs? I'd like to think that the author's devotion to Gospel values had an effect on some of the men he worked beside who were not religious. Surely some came to respect him for them.

One of the most exciting chapters in the book is one called "Fury," which describes how O'Brien and his colleagues worked through a raging storm of gale-force winds that knocked out power lines, blew off roofs and downed trees. The furious storm created a level of chaos beyond the chaotic situation that attends most firefighting emergencies. For the author, it was compounded because he could not get in touch with his family, and he knew they were near a site of danger. It is an edge-of-the-seat chapter that makes real the worries about loved one's firefighters have and the worries the loved ones have about their firefighters in danger.

The author quotes from one of my favorite poems, "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost, to sum up the sometimes-rocky path he has taken. Noting that God has been faithful to him in adversity, he quotes Frost's words: "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – /I took the one less traveled by, /And that has made all the difference." 🌟



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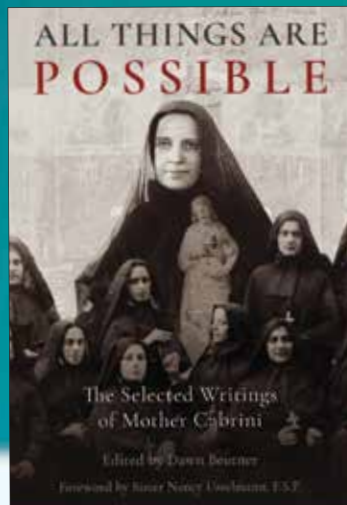
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Her life and work testify to the truth of the Bible verse she took as her motto: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." **ATAPP** . . . Sewn Softcover, \$19.95

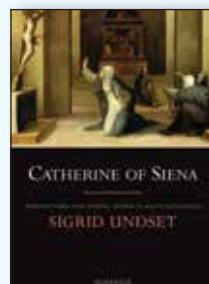
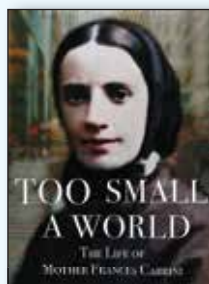
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