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CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS California State

102 YEARS OF SERVICE

GOLDEN STATE TIDINGS

Volume 51 – September 2026

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

UNITY and CHARITY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026 - 2028

NATIONAL OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



Left to right, National Regent Essie Walker, National Regent-Elect Connie Dronette, First Vice National Regent Nancy Bambenek, Second Vice National Regent Brenda Anderson, National Secretary-Treasurer Rita Carlson, National Directors Karin Dudash, Rosie Duran, Rosie Stockwell, Maria Santos-Silva and Barbara Wiechmann.

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CONGRATULATIONS

“Congratulations and Thanks to Christina Stone,
Court Santa Sophia #2520 for accepting
the appointment as Second Vice State Regent.”

CONGRATULATIONS



A much well congratulations to our own Immediate
Past State Regent Maria Santos-Silva,
Court Regina Coeli #1521, on becoming a National Director

STATE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR ~ DEACON TIMOTHY MYERS



Dear Catholic Daughters,

I have been reflecting back on our time at the National Convention in Iowa. It was truly moving to see over 1,000 women gathered together, actively living out and practicing their faith. I remember walking into the convention hall where we were going to have Mass and seeing 1,100 chairs set up. Proclaiming the Gospel to an assembly of 1,100 women of deep faith was a moment I won't soon forget. On Wednesday morning, I walked over to the other hall and saw the rows of tables ready for our first business meeting.

I had the privilege of offering a prayer after lunch, giving thanks for the many blessings we had already received. I also had the honor of serving at three Masses behind the scenes, including the installation of the National Officers, National Regent, and National Chaplain. It was such a joy to serve alongside Father Erick Villa—and a fun bonus that both of us hail right from the Diocese of Oakland, California! Proclaiming the Gospel to an assembly of 1,100 women of deep faith was a moment I won't soon forget.

Before looking ahead, I also want to express my deepest gratitude for all the cards and condolences I received from you when my mom recently passed away. Your support has been a profound comfort to me and my family.

Now, as we return from our summer vacations, I hope you all enjoyed some slow, meaningful time with your families.

The season is shifting quickly. Schools are opening their doors once again, freshmen are heading off to high school, and parents are packing up their cars to drive their children off to their freshman year of college. It is a time of transition, filled with both excitement and a few quiet sighs.

Whether your summer travels took you far or kept you close, and whether your household is adjusting to new school schedules this week, may God bless your homes and your families in this new season.

In Unity and Charity,

Deacon Timothy Myers

State Chaplain, Catholic Daughters of the Americas

NATIONAL SUPERVISOR ~ Brenda Anderson,

2nd Vice National Regent



Ready, Set, GO!!! Remember as a kid we would always seem to like the excitement of those three words on the playground or in your neighborhood? With our CDA year beginning now in September, we should all have this same excitement. It is 'Go' time Ladies!

But first, I need to back up; I'd like to introduce myself to the members of CA who have not met me or are familiar with myself. National Regent Essie Walker appointed me as the new California Supervisor, at the end of August. I have been in contact with several State Officers, and they like myself love Catholic Daughters and all that we can accomplish by working together. My home is in the very southern tip of South Dakota and came from a 'Fr. Peyton family,' (the family that prays together stays together.) This location is new to my husband Cliff and I as we wanted to be closer to our adult children and grandchildren of which there are nine, ranging from 8-18. Fun times.

My years with Catholic Daughters have gone quickly and I am so blessed to have met some of the most remarkable Catholic women. As a member for 44 years, I can say I am still learning along the way, from others who have good ideas, and from those that inspire me to be better leader.

Now – are you ready for this new CDA year? As every Court across California starts this new season of CDA, having things organized for the future is what every Court should have planned. Did you review a Court calendar of projects and events? Did you make a new budget based on last year's expenses? Did you review or write additional Standing Rules for your Court? And what about the news of your Court? If you do not have a newsletter, please get one started. It does not have to be lengthy, but it should be considered a vital part of the life of your Court. Let us get all these things started. That is the 'external' part of preparing for your CDA year. Let us talk about the 'internal' part of your CDA year. What is that you ask? The internal part of your CDA year and Court are you the members. Internally, leave the past emotions, conflicts, disagreements, or disappointments there, in the Past. THIS is the time to look to the future for growth, with resolution and perhaps forgiveness in what has happened within your Court before now. Officers, remember You are a team. Working together for the good of your membership is not optional. Working together is required. Newly elected Regents will perhaps do things differently, but change is growth. Members, remember your pledge at the Officer installation, to support and work together with those in authority? Offering your help on committees may be received well or not wanted. Be patient, do not get upset – your time is not at this moment. Another project or event will need your ideas and support. I have always said that you can go back to doing things like you did in the past if you need to but try new things. It is time for many of our Courts to stop what has been building up as an emotional hinderance preventing growth of your Court and you each personally. Let us move forward. Please pray for these new beginnings and the grace to start this new CDA season with *Unity and Charity*. And may the Holy Spirit guide us on this journey..

~~Brenda Anderson

STATE REGENT ~ LORINE BAKOWSKY



Eucharistic Pilgrimage 2026 in Philadelphia

“Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established”- Proverbs 16:3

My Dear CDA Sisters,

I am so happy to welcome our courts back to the CDA year. I know some courts start in August, and some go year- round, but most start in September and praise be to God, we have new Officers in our courts, a new Circle of Love Education theme and new stories to hear from those who attended National Convention.

My spiritual theme for my term speaks of dedicating our work to God and He will guide and direct us . Of course, we know in our Order, our work is to accomplish our Mission of promoting “justice, equality, and the of human rights and human dignity for all.” We do this work through the Circle of Love. Our projects in the different spokes are how we turn our words of “We are Christians” into actions that matter. We must also remember that we need to listen to what words God is saying to lead us and “establish our plans.”

Pope Francis I said in his Apostolic Exhortation-*Gaudete Et Exsultate* (24), “*May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. Let yourself be transformed. Let yourself be renewed by the Spirit, so that this can happen, lest you fail in your precious mission. The Lord will bring it to fulfillment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you do not abandon the path of love but remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens.*”

So please, this year may we allow ourselves to hear the words that God wants us to hear, and may we take our New National Regent, Essie Walker’s theme to heart by “*Serving Others, Together in Peace, Joy, Unity, and Charity.*”

I look forward to our journey this year, may complete our work, help others and attend to our spiritual needs.

God Bless,

Lorine Bakowsky

Theme: “Commit your Work to the Lord, and Your Plans Will Be Established.
Proverbs 16:3

FIRST VICE STATE REGENT ~ SHERI KANAGAWA



As Catholic women we pray the rosary when we are anxious, happy, nervous, ill or for a loved one that is ill. For me personally the prayers in the rosary bring me comfort and peace. Like someone is wrapping their arms around me in a loving embrace.

A couple of weeks ago I ran across these suggestions when praying that I thought I would share.

- 1) When you get distracted from praying Do not Panic or Give Up. Simply recognize the distraction and return your attention to the prayers.
- 2) Gently bring your mind back to the mystery you are meditating on.
- 3) Focus on Jesus. The rosary is a Christ centered prayer. As you pray each mystery place your attention on the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.
- 4) Meditate on the Mystery, instead of simply saying prayers. Picture the Gospel event in your mind. An easy example would be the Agony in the garden, picture yourself in the garden praying with Jesus.
- 5) Slow Down. Distractions happen because we pray too quickly. Slow down and say each word with focus and attention.
- 6) Do not repeat the rosary with each distraction. Continue praying with your sincere desire to pray.
- 7) Offer your distraction to God. You can simply say in your heart, "Lord Jesus, I offer you this distraction. Help me to focus on you."
- 8) Remove unnecessary distractions- put your phone away if possible, find a quiet place and time where there are few distractions. Maybe in the early morning.
- 9) Ask the Holy Spirit for help before beginning the rosary, briefly pray: "Holy Spirit, help me to pray with a focused mind and a loving heart."
- 10) Ask Mary to lead you to Jesus. The Blessed Mary always points us to her son. Ask her to help you in reciting the mysteries with greater love and attention.
- 11) Remember: Distraction is not the same a deliberate rejection.
- 12) Persevere, the goal of the Rosary is not to achieve perfect concentration every second. The goal is to draw closer to Jesus through meditation on his life with Mary. Remember: When you become distracted, do not quit. Notice it, refocus, and continue. Every time you return your heart to God, you are making another small act of love.

"PRAY THE ROSARY EVEN WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT. GOD SEES YOUR EFFORT, YOUR FAITH, AND YOUR DESIRE TO BE WITH HIM."

May each and every Catholic Daughters find peace and love in your court, your parish and your community.

In Unity and Charity,

Sheri Kanagawa

STATE SECRETARY ~ YVETTE MANARD



FALL RENEWAL & COMMITMENT Making a Difference in Your Court

Fall or autumn is traditionally known as the time, we not only give thanks, but for spiritual reflection and personal renewal. This fall season begins with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas' (CDA), newly elected officers and members renewing their commitment to our organization.

We are reminded of our commitment during our beautiful fall installation ceremony for newly elected National and local Court officers when our officers recite the "Act of Consecration" and our members' pledge support.

Officers pledge: **Lord, Jesus I give you my hands to do your work; I give you my feet to go your way; I give you my eyes to see as you do; I give you my tongue to speak your words; I give you my mind that you may think in me; Above all, I give you my heart That you may love in me, you, Father and all mankind; I give you my whole life that you may grow in me, So that it may be you, Lord Jesus who works and loves and prays in me. Amen.**

In turn, CDA members offer their support and pledge of confidence: **We the members of Court, one in unity and love, pledge our allegiance to our church, to our country, to the Catholic Daughters of The Americas, and to our newly installed officers. We promise to do all we can for the good of the order by our support.**

It is my hope that when we recite these words, we take them to heart and actualize them in our words, behavior and actions. Let us begin our new fall terms by reflecting and prayers:



Renewal: Let go of the past and embrace new opportunities for growth and blessings.

Strength: Let us find strength to graciously serve and support each other.

Guidance: Let the Holy Spirit guide us in word and actions.

Action: May our work be fruitful and reflect the values and traditions of the CDA.

Let us join with our National Regent Elect, Essie Walker and embrace in word and deed her theme; "Serving Others, Together in Peace, Joy, Unity and Charity."

Blessings,

Yvette Manard

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9

STATE TREASURER ~ MICHELLE ECK



Welcome back from your Summer adventures! It is time to start up our court activities with our new officers. One position of the court that is not an officer is a Court Historian. This may not seem very important but years from now when none of us are Catholic Daughters anymore someone may want to know about your court. I do not really have a historian right now in my court but in the past we have had some great ones. I found documents recently that not only have the history of my court but also of the California State Court and I would like to share some of those facts with you.

1903 - Founding of Daughters of Isabella in Utica, Oneida County, New York.. First Supreme Regent was its founder, John E. Carberry; Mary L. McKenna was first Vice-Supreme Regent. The Knights of Columbus held office and leadership until 1921.

Our name changed several times over the years: Daughters of Isabella (1903), National Order of Daughters of Isabella (1905), Catholic Daughters of America (1921), Catholic Daughters of the Americas (1979).

1911 - The first CDA Court in California was Court San Francisco #133, instituted on April 30, 1911 under the leadership of Regent Nellie Bulger and through the efforts of Mrs. Mary Maguire who, during a stay in New York joined Court Isabella #5 in order to bring CDA to San Francisco.

1912 - CDA Court Sacramento #172 was instituted on May 5, 1912 by Court San Francisco #133, at the "Sacramento Hotel". First elected Grand Regent was Mrs. Adeline Cobler. Grand Knight of Columbus was Dr. F.E. Shaw.

January 28, 1923 - California State Court was organized by Mrs. Duffy. Representatives from 17 Courts were present.

1927 - Junior C.D.A. Court was established. Leaders were Betty Collins, Lillian Largomenso & Betty Trimble. Shirley Godfrey was a Junior C.D.A. (Past State Regent). National adopted the Junior CDA program in 1926 so California was ready to start the program in 1927.

1927-The State Scholarship Fund was instituted by assessing 25 cents per member to each Court.

1930-Each Diocese was given a special project. Sacramento #172 had a Japanese Mission.

1958-CDA members donated \$250,000.00 to erect Five Altars in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

While not all the documents I found only had our court's history but some of the State Court history as well. If we did not have a historian at that time, this history may have been lost.

Michelle Eck

State Regent's Updates – Fall 2026



Hello,

As you know, this July, Catholic Daughters of the Americas held its Biannual National Convention. The convention was held in Coralville, Iowa and it was an amazing time. Approximately one-thousand women attended the convention.

AMAZING! The State Board, Deacon Tim and our wonderful court delegates and alternates sat patiently and attentively through the business meetings and represented our state well.

Besides the election of new National Officers and Directors, one of the major items of business is the amending of the National Bylaws. The major amending work to be done by the Bylaws committee is the alignment of the wording of State/Local and Campus court verbiage. Some corrections in grammar and punctuation will be made. Two bylaws and a procedure of note are:

Article III -Membership, Sec. 1 Eligibility – will now state, “Catholic women **born female at birth**, 18 years of age or older.....”

This statement was added to ensure only biological females are eligible to join as it follows the teaching of the Catholic Church.

Article XVII -Miscellaneous Provisions, Sec. 1 Sharing Information to Members – clarifies the privacy rules protecting members lists not prohibiting the use of basic officer contact information needed for legitimate nonprofit operations and recruitment.

Please ensure that your court officers purchase a new 2026 edition of the National Bylaws when they are available online through the National online store. If you have questions about all the amendments made, please check with your court's delegate(s). If your court did not send a delegate, please contact your District Deputy.

Local Court Officer Training

All court officers, new and veteran, are required to have Officer Training. I have tasked the District Deputies with providing this training to the officers of the court(s) they oversee. Some areas have had group training, with the District Deputies pooling together to provide the training. Any officers not attending these group training sessions will receive individual training from their District Deputy. If your district deputy has not scheduled an officer training with you, please contact them. Please be aware some courts may have new District Deputies assigned within the next few weeks. The State Board will try to notify you as soon as possible.

Reminder – the District Deputies will be calling their court Regents monthly to check in and providing their District Deputy Supervisor a report on the events, issues and successes of their courts.

Dues and Financial Reviews

Please ensure your dues are paid within 30 days of the receipt of the invoice (per the Bylaws), and your Financial Review is completed and sent to National and the State “**no later than April 30 and October 31.**” (per the Bylaws)

State Board Calendar

The State Board will be holding our in-person board meetings during the following dates and locations. Please let us know of any events that may be occurring during that time, if we are close by, we may be able to attend.

October 16-18 San Leandro

January 15-17 Sacramento

March 12-14th Sacramento

April 22-25th State Convention Sacramento

State Regent Office Hours

I will continue my office hours on the first Thursdays of the month at 7pm via zoom.

Here is the link but it may also be found on the California Catholic Daughter webpage.

Invite Link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89702138529?pwd=NhOuZl10TM7BQ3X0INsLaW0uEUKIFP.1>

Hear ye, Hear ye,

*Please welcome two new courts in
the Fresno Diocese!*

*Court Shrine of St. Therese #2832,
Fresno*

*Court Daughters of St. Peter #2833
Lemoore*



Thank You So Much!

Thank you so much for the wonderful Spiritual Bouquet I received at the State Dinner at National Convention. Your generosity of time that will be spent in prayer and rosaries for me is very much appreciated. Also, thank you Court Our Lady of LaSalette #2499 for the Mass said for me this summer. Court Santa Sophia, thank you also for the individual flowers. Love the creativity.

Lorine

RELICS OF ST. BERNADETTE U.S. TOUR

The historic U.S. tour for the relics of St. Bernadette begins on September 18, 2026, at the [Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#) in Washington, D.C. and continues through late 2027.

Tour Overview

- **Official Name:** Journey of Grace
- **Duration:** September 2026 through Fall 2027
- **Total Stops:** Visiting roughly 140 to 200 Catholic churches, shrines, and hospitals across the U.S.
- **Organizer:** Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, with North American Lourdes Volunteers

Opening Event

- **Dates:** September 18–20, 2026
- **Location:** Washington, D.C.
- **Activities:** Veneration of a 132-pound reliquary, touching a rock from the original Grotto in Lourdes, washing with Lourdes water, and prayer.

Schedule by Regions

- **East Coast (September – December 2026):** Travels up and down the East Coast, concluding stops in Florida.
- **Central South (Starting January 2027):** Route planning is currently underway.
- **Central North & West Coast (Later in 2027):** Dates and stops will be announced as the pilgrimage moves across the country.

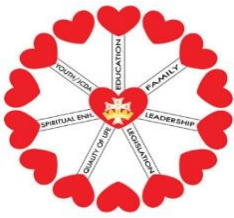
You can track the path, see regional updates, or request a parish stop on the [2026-27 US Tour of the Relics of St. Bernadette](#) official website:

<https://bernadette-usa.lourdes-france.com/ip.php>

LOCAL, STATE and NATIONAL EVENTS

MONTHLY ROSARY	COURT COMPTON #942 MONTHLY ROSARY When: 3 rd Wednesday of Month Where: Zoom Time: 7:00 p.m. Zoom: Meeting Id: 821 0049 5984 Passcode: 109721
MONTHLY PATROITIC ROSARY	COURT ST. JOHN #2526 MONTHLY PATRIOTIC ROSARY When: 1 st Tuesday of every month Where: Zoom Time: 6:00 pm
MONTHLY FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY Next: SEPT. 8	COURT ST. JOHN #2526 FLAME OF LOVE ROSARY When: 2 nd Tuesday of month – September 8, 2026 Time: 6:00 pm Pacific Time Where: Zoom ~ Meeting Id: 848 3164 6815 Passcode: 161639 Using your mobile phone: One tap mobile +16694449171 ,,84831646815#,,, *161639# US +12532050468 ,,84831646815#,,, *161639# US
TUESDAYS and THURSDAYS	LA ARCHDIOCESE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN ROSARY (ACCW) When: Tuesdays & Thursdays How: Call-in: 1-425-436-6200 410510# (this is a toll-free call) Time: 8:00 P.M.
SEPT 12, 2026	CONGRATULATORY MASS & CELEBRATION BANQUET Mass: Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral @ 5:00 PM Vigil Mass 718 Nazareth Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27606 Banquet: DoubleTree by Hilton Raleigh Durham Airport at RTP 4810 Page Creek Lane Durham, North Carolina 27703 Banquet @ 6:30 PM with no Host Bar
SEPT 12, 2026	2ND ANNUAL GRILL & GATHER Hosted by CDA Immaculate Heart of Mary #2714 When: Saturday, September 12, 2026 Where: Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Hall 500 Fairview Ave., Brentwood, CA 94513 Time: 5:30 pm – doors open 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Cost: \$50.00 per ticket Line dancing, beverages, cake auction, raffle prizes. Wear your cowboy or cowgirl attire For information: Contact ihmcda2714@gmail.com

OCT. 24, 2026	SAVE THE DATE: UNDERSTOOD & CONNECTED: WOMEN'S RETREAT Emotional Connection Through The Blessed Mother's Support When: Saturday, October 24, 2026 Where: Our Lady of Grace 5011 White Oak Ave. Encino, CA Time: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm Tickets: \$15.00 *Free for non-CDA Women (18-40) Contact: Debra Burley @ 818-219-8512 Hi.CDA.L.A.Info@gmail.com Hosted by Catholic Daughters of the Americas
JAN. 21-24, 2027	SAVE THE DATE: NAT'L MARCH 4 LIFE IN WASHINGTON, DC When: January 21-24, 2027 Where: Washington, DC Vigil Mass: At the Basilica of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, January 21, 2027 Walk: National March Walk on Friday, January 22, 2027 CDA Host Hotel: Hampton Inn by Hilton Washington – Downtown Convention Center 901 6th Street NW Washington, DC 20001-2646 202-842-2500 <i>The CDA Host Hotel can get booked up pretty fast so you may want to make reservations ahead of time.</i>
APRIL 22-25, 2027	SAVE THE DATE: 2027 STATE CONVENTION Sacramento, CA Convention will be coming soon!
NOV. 8-17, 2027	SAVE THE DATE: CDA NATIONAL 10 DAY ITALY PILGRIMAGE Hosts: National Regent Essie Walker and National Chaplain Father Emmanuel Ukaegbu-Onuoha When: November 8 – 17, 2027 What: 10-Day Pilgrimage to Italy: Rome-Assisi-Siena-Bologna-Milan Cost: \$5,990.00 per person (R/T from JFK to Rome and return from Milan to JFK (if you need different airport, price will be calculated when booking your trip). You can view the flyer at end of newsletter. \$1,000.00 Single Supplement Book at: www.lppilgrimages.com Contact: L.P. Pilgrimages, P.O. Box 2015 Lawrenceville, GA 30046 Toll free: 1-833-944-8242



2025-2027 CIRCLE OF LOVE STATE

A circle is a curved line with every point equal distance from the point of the center and bound together by the common interest. The seven-point program of the CIRCLE OF LOVE is bound together by the common interest - LOVE.



EDUCATION ~ MARIA ARECHIGA ~ mfarechiga@yahoo.com

Hello Sisters in Christ!

The summer is gone and school is back in session! It is the perfect time to share The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Education contests with both public and parochial schools. If teachers see the contest rules early, they are more likely to incorporate them into their curriculum. The theme for the education contests this school year is "Blessed are the peacemakers," from Matthew 5:9 or Building Peace Together in Unity.

As your Education Chairman I want to encourage you to go above and beyond getting youth and Catholic Daughters to participate in the Education Contest. Remember that participants will benefit from reflecting on the theme and allowing God to inspire them in a way that only He can. Think of those students who do not get to go to mass every Sunday, but they decide to participate because they could use the scholarship money.

I want to share some strategies to increase participation this year.

Print out copies of the Education Application from the National CDA website and leave a copy for the teachers and or school counselors at your local schools.
(Maybe attach a treat)

Make an appreciation basket and leave it in the staff break room along with applications and CDA info (maybe you will get some new members)

Find out if you can attend a back-to-school night or sponsor an event

Share copies of the applications with your friends, family and neighbors

Publicize in the Church Bulletin

Include the theme in your Court Newsletter and encourage members to participate

Thank you for making the Education Contest an integral part of your commitment sharing God's Word. I hope to receive entries from all of your courts! Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for making this year's Education Contest a success.

In unity and charity,

Maria Arechiga



As Summer Ends

As summer ends and fall begins, families many need to settle back into familiar routines of school activities and parish life. For Catholic Daughters, this season also marks a renewed call to service, sisterhood, and faith-filled opportunities. Amid busy schedules, the fall months offer many beautiful feast days and holidays that can help families grow closer to Jesus and to one another.

October 4: Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi

Read about St. Francis, his life and simplicity. Perhaps taking part in a pet blessing. As a family, work together in an act of caring for the environment, or those in need.

October 7: Our Lady of the Rosary

Pray the rosary individually or as a family. Reflect on the mysteries. Look online for a free explanation of the mysteries for children. Prepare a prayer intention list to go with the rosary.

November 1: All Saints Day

Families can learn about their patron saints and read stories together. A special meal or dessert honoring the family's patron saint will make the day memorable.

November 2: All Souls Day

All Souls Day reminds us to remember and pray for loved ones who are no longer with us. Create a family altar with photographs and light candles as a symbol of remembrance and hope for the souls of the deceased. This would be a good opportunity to remind ourselves of the Virtue of Hope.

November 7: Our Lady of the Rosary

Pray the rosary individually or as a family. Reflect on the mysteries. A children's guide of the mysteries can be found for free on the internet.

Making the Traditions Last

This goal is not perfection, but consistency. The simple practices, repeated year after year, help connect faith with family life. As these traditions take root, feast days become more than dates on a calendar. They become meaningful celebrations that draw the whole family closer to Christ and his Church.

Laura McQuoid



Blessings CDA Sisters in Christ,
Praying you all are doing great, as well as all your family and friends. I trust you have had a fruitful, relaxing, enjoyable and COOL summer!

July 2026 was our CDA National Convention in Coralville, IA and as a 'first timer', what an eye-opening experience. I learned a lot and with God's grace, I look forward to attending my 2nd Convention on July 26-30, 2028, in Greensboro, North Carolina! I am blessed, humbled and grateful for the opportunity to have attended as a Delegate for my home Court, St. John 2526, Fresno, CA. I can go on about what a wonderful and enlightening experience I had, but I will TRY to keep it short and share some of the highlights. If you have attended a National Convention before, I am sure you can relate. For those that have yet to attend a National Convention, my prayer is that you too make a commitment to yourself and your court to attend. We have 2 years to make that commitment, raise funds, and talk to fellow CDA members that have attended to impart some of their experiences so that you are better prepared and are able to get the most out of that experience.

As I mentioned before, there were so many highlights, but the biggest and most impactful was hearing all the National Circle of Love winners announced goes without mention. As your State Leadership Chairman, it was not only an honor to meet the National Circle of Love Chairmen, but the fact that CA was recognized, is AWESOME! It confirmed why it is vital that every Court submit their Circle of Love entries every year and share those new, proven, and innovative ideas!

We are in a season of change, be it the weather, the change with the newly elected Officers taking over their roles, etc., change nonetheless can prove to be difficult. Although there is a silver lining and many positives can be derived by change such as accomplishment in being able to say that something new has been attempted, reviewed, evaluated and a decision has been made as to continue to practice that change or not.

This is the season where the Leadership has changed in our local courts and it is a time of adaptation, patience, kindness, respect and grace. Also, there has been a change in District Deputy assignments and sometimes changes of this sort may be received with some hesitation, but I challenge you to be open and obedient to whatever it is that God is calling on you to do and be open and receptive to these changes. If nothing else, it will do wonders for our prayer life.

I am confident that with all fears aside, our loving God has much good in store for all of us and the time to hit the restart button is here. Congratulations to all the new and returning Officers that have accepted the challenge and the trust of your respective courts to LEAD. May you take the time to also enjoy the rewards that come along with the responsibilities of being a Court Officer. My challenge to you during this time of change is to pray and think outside the box, try something new, accept a new responsibility within your Court such as a Circle of Love Chairman, a chairman of an event your Court is hosting, etc. and may you be a part of making our motto of Unity and Charity become alive and full of action in you!

Blessings to you and all of yours and if ever you would like to contact me, please do not hesitate to reach out – I am only an email, phone call, or text away.

Ismaela Muniz Heiden



California Catholic Conference

<http://www.cacatholic.org>

Greetings! I hope you enjoyed your summer with your family.

I had the great pleasure of attending the Eucharistic Conference in Philadelphia from July 2nd thru July 5th. We were in Philadelphia to celebrate America's 250th birthday and visited the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. We missed out on the fireworks because they were rain-delayed and we could not stay up until 3 AM to see them.

Being in the city where the Declaration of Independence was written and then traveling to Washington DC to visit the Capital made me feel truly blest to live in this country. We all need to exercise our right to vote to let our opinions be known and support our legislators. It is our duty to become educated on the issues on the ballot so we can vote from a point of knowledge for the betterment of our towns, cities, state and country. Your vote counts.

IMPORTANT DATES

General Election Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Registration Deadlines

Online

Monday, October 19, 2026

By Mail (postmarked)

Monday, October 19, 2026

In Person

Tuesday, November 3, 2026

If you are not registered to vote, these are your important dates. You can use the internet to find the information you need. The League of Women Voters has published an election guide for California propositions at <https://cavotes.org/easy-voter-guide/>

A guide about the candidates running for office in our state is being constructed. Some information is currently available at lwc.org. VOTE411.org is the League's one-stop shop where you can find all the information you need to cast your ballot. It is virtual, nonpartisan, and available in both English and Spanish.

A Catholic website is available from the California Catholic Conference at

<https://cacatholic.org/legislative-priorities/>

The future of our state and our country needs your vote. Stand up and be counted on November 3rd.

Just a reminder, Catholic Daughters may work for a candidate or a proposition, but only as private citizens representing themselves and may not represent the Catholic Daughters when expressing their opinions.

Maureen Laubacher



New Year, New Ideas

Happy New Year, Sisters!

September opens out 2026-2027 Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) year. We start with the blessing mass for our new national regent, Essie Walker, in Durham, NC. New leadership brings new ideas. Our national regent's theme is: "Serving others, Together in Peace, Joy, Unity and Charity." With a theme that start with the words "serving others," we can take that as a directive not a request. Galatians 6: 9-10 encourages us to "not grow weary in well-doing", so let us follow that with a renewed energy to help others this CDA year. What ideas do you have for serving?

The school year just started, are any of your courts helping students or teachers? Perhaps, you can "adopt a class." Many are without supplies. A teacher friend of mine made an Amazon account to which many of us donated. This year's geometry theme is Disney inspired. Imagine the joy of learning with your favorite character!

CDA Sunday is the third Sunday in October. Many courts will attend mass together. Will your court wear purple and gold? What about after mass? Lunch together is a popular activity. But what if you served others? Your court could host the donut and coffee hour at your parish. If you have done activities other than lunch, share them on the state and national Facebook pages.

November and December are family months. As we celebrate veterans and Thanksgiving, many need food. Your court could help at the parish or local food pantry. December 6th is St. Nicholas Day. There are opportunities to do a toy or clothing drive. Or your court could volunteer with an established event. You do not have to stay for 8 hours; you could work in shifts. Advent is November 29th and begins Liturgical Year B. As we lead up to the celebration of Christ birth, let us remember Mary and Joseph had nowhere to sleep. Your court could help with the parish nativity activities. Or perhaps, create a new activity centered on the homeless.

Ash Wednesday comes early in 2027, February 10th! That is just before Valentines Day. What if your court did something centered on widows and widowers? You could visit a nursing home or senior living community. You could host a dance or luncheon and get help finding your seniors who do not usually attend events. Do they need a ride? Or maybe they are just shy. A personal invite goes a long way. What long-term (think the entire Lenten season) activity could your court do?

Whew! That is a lot of opportunity for service to others. What about serving ourselves? You could start by attending our California State CDA Convention in Sacramento, in April 2027. That is when our "Unity" is seen the most. Our collective gathering, working to improve our order, our courts, and ourselves. What's the Number One thing we leave with? Yes, JOY! But that is not the #1 thing...IDEAS! In all of our catching up, we tell stories of our courts and share intentional (and not so intentional) IDEAS. We have a lot of Love for our order, our courts, and each other (that's the "Charity" part). I look forward to seeing what themes our outgoing, Lorine Bakowsky, and incoming, Sheri Kanagawa, State Regents have in mind for our chapel and religious sections during the California State – Catholic Daughters of the Americas Convention.

I will see you in Sacramento!

In Unity and Charity,

* All bible quotations are from “Holy Bible, RSV – Catholic Edition 2004”

Inspired readings:

New Year – 2 Corinthians 5:17; Isaiah 43:18-19; Jeremiah 29:11; Proverbs 3:5-6

Generosity – Galatians 6:9-10; Proverbs 3:27; Hebrews 13:16; Isaiah 58:10

MEMBERSHIP EXTENSION ~ Central ~ Kathi Morris



Called to Serve: Trusting Jesus Through the Journey

Nine years ago, I had never heard of Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

I had recently moved from Pacific Grove to East Clovis and was looking for a way to become more involved at Divine Mercy Catholic Church. One Sunday, I noticed the Catholic Daughters listed in the parish bulletin and called the Regent. I began attending meetings and, for nearly a year, learned about this organization and its mission of Unity and Charity.

But I noticed something. Although the meetings were being advertised at Divine Mercy, none of the women were actually parishioners there.

That realization planted a seed: **Divine Mercy needed a Catholic Daughters court of its own.**

So, with faith and probably more determination than knowledge of what I was getting myself into, I set out to charter Court Daughters of Divine Mercy.

The court was instituted in June 2019 with approximately 20 members, and I had the privilege of serving as its Charter Regent. At the same time, I was writing my book, *We Were the Morris Orphans*. I was learning CDA protocol, training new officers, building a new court and writing a book—all at once.

Then the pandemic hit.

Suddenly, everything we had been building had to change. Meetings became Zoom meetings. Fellowship looked different. Recruiting members became more difficult. Like everyone else, we were trying to navigate circumstances none of us had ever experienced.

There were many times during those early years when my prayer was very simple:

“Jesus, I trust in You.”

And He carried us through the storm.

Today, Court Daughters of Divine Mercy has grown from approximately 20 charter members to more than 50 women. When I look back, I am reminded that service does not always begin because we feel prepared. Sometimes it begins simply because we see a need and are willing to say, **“I will help.”**

Three years ago, my journey of service took another turn when I was invited to serve as Central California Membership Chair and as District Deputy for three courts: Court Ramon Mestres #1505, Court Salinas #686, and Court John Paul II #2563.

I was warned that two of the courts were in danger of disbanding.

Each court had different challenges, so I had to listen, learn and prioritize the needs of each one. Then I rolled up my sleeves and went to work.

Not every story had the ending I hoped for. After 102 years of service, Court Salinas made the difficult decision to disband. It was heartbreaking to see the closing of a court with more than a century of history.

But there was also reason for hope.

The other two courts now have strong leadership boards and are well on their way to recovery and becoming thriving courts once again.

My role as Central California Membership Chair has brought another tremendous blessing. This year, I have had the honor of helping institute two new courts: Court Shrine of St. Therese #2832 and Court Daughters of St. Peter #2833.

There is something very special about watching a new court begin. You see women stepping forward, accepting leadership positions, discovering their gifts and realizing that they can make a difference in their parishes and communities.

And now, another chapter is beginning.

I recently learned that my District Deputy assignment is changing. I will be leaving my assignments with the Monterey and Salinas-area courts and beginning a new assignment with Court St. Joachim #2553 in Madera.

Once again, I do not know exactly what this next assignment will bring.

But I know what I have learned during these nine years with Catholic Daughters.

Service is not about having all the answers.

Service is noticing where you are needed and being willing to go there.

It is encouraging a struggling court instead of walking away from it. It is teaching a new officer who is nervous about her responsibilities. It is welcoming a woman attending her first meeting. It is preserving traditions while also being willing to try something new. Sometimes it means building something from the ground up, and sometimes it means helping something that already exists become strong again.

Most importantly, service is understanding that the talents God gives us were never intended for us alone.

Nine years ago, I made a telephone call because I saw "Catholic Daughters" in a church bulletin. I could never have imagined where that one call would lead.

From approximately 20 women gathered to begin a new court, through a pandemic, struggling courts, new courts and now another District Deputy assignment, the journey has continually reminded me of one thing:

When God places an opportunity to serve before us, we do not have to know how the entire journey will unfold.

We simply have to be willing to say yes.

And when the road becomes difficult, sometimes the most powerful prayer is also the simplest:

Jesus, I trust in You.

Kathi Morris

PARLIAMENTARIAN ~ Laura Vacca



You Keep Using That Word... I Do Not Think It Means What You Think It Means

Greetings CDA Sisters!

This summer, while preparing for my daughter's July bridal shower I focused on the theme of her favorite book/movie *The Princess Bride*. As I delved into the book, I was struck by how many of the quotes could also apply to another topic: *preventing misinterpretation when creating motions, bylaws, and standing rules*.

In this comedy, the overconfident character, Vizzini, attempts to kidnap Princess Buttercup. Whenever something goes wrong, he dramatically yells, "Inconceivable!" Eventually, the swashbuckling swordsman, Inigo Montoya, chides him with the memorable line: "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

When creating or reviewing bylaws and standing rules, it is a good reminder that **words matter**. We need to be clear about what we intend a word to mean and how others might interpret it. Yes, Robert's Rules does use the word "shall" in the creation of bylaws. I.E., "The treasurer shall disburse funds as approved by the Chair." However, "shall" can be ambiguous and has been the subject of considerable litigation in American law. When we use words such as **may, must, shall, should, or will**, we need to clearly state what we mean so there is less opportunity for misunderstanding and clarifies your *intent*.

- **May** indicates permission.

"If you are unable to attend, you may request a delegate to represent you."

- **Must** indicates a requirement.

"At convention, speakers must state their name and whether they are speaking for or against the motion."

- **Will** indicates what is expected to happen.

"The meeting will take place on Monday."

- **Shall** can be ambiguous. If the intent is simply to state what will happen, "**will**" may be clearer.

- **Should** generally indicates a recommendation.

"The Regent should establish a financial committee."

"I Call the Question!"

Another phrase heard at Convention was, "I call the question."

RONR, 12th ed., §16, explains that the proper motion is "**I move the Previous Question.**" This is a motion to close debate and proceed to a vote, and it requires a two-thirds vote by the assembly.

Simply saying, "I call the question," does not automatically tell the chair to stop discussion. If no one is seeking recognition to continue debate, the chair may proceed to the vote when appropriate. But if members still wish to debate, they vote against the motion and discussion must be continued.

It also does not mean "Everyone understands it. Let us just vote." In the *Princess Bride*, the grandfather tries to skip part of the story, he says, "You don't want to hear that." But the grandson replies, "I don't mind so much." Sometimes we treat discussion of a motion the same way.

- At Convention, a step was missed. When a vote was taken before debate was offered, this ultimately required additional parliamentary steps to then reconsider the motion, reopen discussion, and amend it. Taking the time to discuss a motion allows members to ask questions, ed.), §4:2 and 4:15 (pg. 28-33) stating the question and bringing a motion before the assembly; handling, debating, amending, and disposing of motions.
- RONR (12th ed.), §35 (pg.288) Rescind or Amend Something Previously Adopted.
- RONR (12th ed.), §37 (pg.298) Reconsider.

Laura Vacca

GOLDEN STATE TIDINGS ~ Karen Jones ~ Kdj4237308@gmail.com



Share what your court is doing with the other CDA Sisters. Send in your articles! Your articles, pictures or updates can be sent to me either in an email format with the text in the body of the email or as an attachment. **(I WILL NOT SHORTEN YOUR ARTICLES.)**

THEMES and DUE DATES

ISSUES & THEMES

FALL = Welcome, Recruitment, CDA Sunday, Conventions, Hospitality, Service

SUBMIT DATE Aug. 1-31, 2025 **DUE: September 1, 2025**

WINTER = Advent/Christmas, Trainings, Fundraisers, Leadership Reflections, Volunteerism, CDA Sisterhood

SUBMIT DATE Nov. 1-30, 2025 **DUE: December 1, 2025**

SPRING = Lent/Easter, Priests, Stewardship/Piety, Empathy/Compassion

SUBMIT DATE Feb. 1-28, 2026 **DUE: March 1, 2026**

SUMMER = Technology help, Parliamentary help, Fundraising, Faithfulness, Generosity

SUBMIT DATE March 1-31, 2026 **DUE: June 1, 2026**

Karen Jones



www.californiacatholicdaughters.org

Member Education, Involvement and Sharing!

Our CDA National Officers and Directors began their term on August 25, 2026 and our CA local courts have elected their officers, and they have been installed! Congratulations to everyone for serving our amazing sisterhood.

As you begin, the 2026-2028 term, an excellent resource for all Catholic Daughters is our State CDA and our National website. Please, as you are reading this article, pull out your phone and locate these two website, bookmark them and view at least weekly.

National <https://catholicdaughters.org/>

CA State <https://www.californiacatholicdaughters.org/>

Officers at your meetings, please take a couple of minutes to have your members go to the website. For example, when your Vice Regent is going over the Releases, have the members follow along on the State's website release page! It will help to keep members informed.

<https://www.californiacatholicdaughters.org/state-releases/>

The website has procedural and operational information, (Toots of Trade), fillable forms our history, Circle of Love, fundraising, spiritual events and activities. It will save you time and possibly "headaches" if you and your members are familiar with the information.

What's New on CA Website?

- [Updated sliders and information on the home page](#)
- [Newly elected National Officers and Directors](#)
- [Messages from CA Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Tim Myers and National Chaplain, Rev. Rev. Emmanuel Ukaegbu-Onuoha](#)
- [Local Court Installations and Events Photos](#)
- [Court Events](#)

Regularly submit your events, photos and review the website to stay informed. Bookmark these important pages, for your easy reference:

- [Monthly Regent Office Hours – Zoom invitation](#)
- [Tools of the Trade](#)
- [Fillable National, State and Local Court Forms](#)
- [Releases](#)
- [Golden State Tidings](#)

In Unity & Charity,

Yvette Manard

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER						
COURT #	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2026	2027	2028
1158	St. Theresa	Gustine	9/7/1930	96	97	98
2517	St. Anne	Banning	9/6/2003	23	24	25
2637	Our Lady of Grace	Reedley	9/11/2010	16	17	18
2792	St. Andrew	Pasadena	9/8/2023	3	4	5

OCTOBER						
COURT #	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2026	2027	2028
1162	San Luis Obispo	San Luis Obispo	10/12/1930	96	97	98
1520	Guardian Angel	Montebello	10/2/1949	77	78	79
1521	Regina Coeli	Porterville	10/3/1949	77	78	79
1652	St. Francis of Assisi	Hanford	10/4/1953	73	74	75
2418	Queen of the Americas	Sylmar	10/29/1995	31	32	33
2520	Santa Sophia	Spring Valley	10/11/2003	23	24	25
2525	St. Basil the Great	Vallejo	10/25/2003	23	24	25

NOVEMBER						
COURT #	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2026	2027	2028
1450	St. Mary Margaret	Pittsburg	11/13/1947	79	80	81
1661	Our Lady of Good Success	Clovis	11/15/1953	73	74	75
1707	Our Lady of the Miracle	Navato	11/2/1955	71	72	73
2610	St. Rita	Tulare	11/28/2008	18	19	20

DECEMBER						
COURT #	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2026	2027	2028
293	Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara	12/10/1916	110	111	112
1454	Immaculate Conception	Fontana	12/7/1947	79	80	81
2440	Dominic Franci	Dinuba	12/21/1996	30	31	32
2526	St. John	Fresno	12/14/2003	23	24	25

NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome Our New National Board for the 2026-2028 Term!

The Motto for National Regent Essie Walker's Term is:
"Serving Others, Together in Peace, Joy, Unity and Charity"



From left to right: National Regent Essie Walker, National Regent-Elect Connie Dronette, First Vice National Regent Nancy Bambenek, Second Vice National Regent Brenda Anderson, National Secretary-Treasurer Rita Carlson, National Directors Karin Dudash, Rosie Duran, Rosie Stockwell, Maria Santos-Silva and Barbara Wiechmann.

Missing from the photo are National Chaplain Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Ukaegbu-Onuoha, the four National Directors who stepped up when needed, Bonnie Fox, Jennifer Pachecho, Suzanne Torrey and Barb Ward.



As the ladies and men gather for the Walk/Run photo

At the CDA CA State dinner which was held on July 23 at the Holiday Inn in Coralville, Iowa. A fun night for all the CA members and our guests from four other states who joined with the CA members in attendance. Court Compton members, Linda, Alicia and Karen with Clara from St. John Chrysostom.



CA CDA Women of the Year

Northern California: Maria Arechiga, Court Mary Queen of the Americas #2400.

Central California: Maria Santos-Silva, IPSR Court Regina Coeli #1521

Southern California: Jennifer Campell, Court Good Shepherd #1930 (Lorene & Yvette on the phone with Jennifer).



JOINT INSTALLATION

CTS ST JOHN #2526, OUR LADY OF GOOD SUCCESS #1661, ST. JOACHIM #2553

Congratulations to all the new Officers of Court St John, Fresno; Court Our Lady of Good Success, Clovis and Court St Joachim, Madera!



COURT BLESSED SACRAMENT #2024

Court Blessed Sacrament #2024 held a mass and Officers Installation on July 18, 2026 in Westminster, CA. Chaplain Father Tuyen was celebrant and District Deputy, Yvette Manard was the presiding officer.



COURT OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY #1462

The Court members are honored to introduce our new Catholic Daughters of America officers for Ct #1462 "Our Lady of the Valley"

2026-2028: Regent Norma Mendez; Vice Regent -Elizabeth "Liz" Jimenez; Recording Secretary -Sharon Salas; Financial Secretary -Carole Arias; Treasurer Linda Bloomquist



COURT REGINA COELI #1521

Court Regina Coeli had a wonderful meeting today. We installed 3 new members, welcomed our recipients of our high school scholarships, and installed our new officers.



COURT DOMINIC FRANCI #2440

Court Dominic Franci #2440 held their new officers Installation on June 11, 2026. State 1st Vice Regent, Sheri Kanagawa installed the new officers. Congratulations!



COURT OUR LADY OF VICTORY #1344

Court Our Lady of Victory #1344 held their 2026-2028 new officers installation on August 19, 2026, at St. James Church, Kavanagh Hall, in Redondo Beach. Chaplain, Father James Kavanagh and Presiding Officer, Yvette Manard, State Secretary installed the new officers. Congratulations!



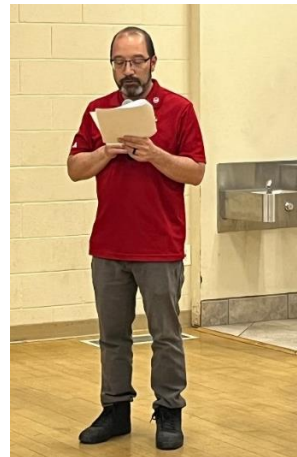
COURT JOHN PAUL II #2563

Court John Paul II #2526 installed their 2026-2028 officers on August 22, 2026 at Sacred Heart Church in Salinas, CA. Celebrant was Rev. Ronald Green and Michelle Eck, State Treasurer was the presiding officer. Congratulations!



COURT ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI #1652

Congratulations to our new officers and new Spiritual Advisor Deacon Jason Lowe!



COURT ACTIVITIES

Court St. John Chrysostom #2658 held "Christmas in July" event on Saturday, July 18, 2026 at St. John Chrysostom Church in Inglewood, CA . It was a fun and well-attended event. Congratulations!



COURT TERESA OF AVILA #1580

Court Teresa of Avila #1580 celebrated their 75th anniversary with a mass and reception on August 22, 2026 at St. John of the Cross Catholic Church in Lemon Grove, CA. San Diego Diocese's Sister courts, Our Lady of the Holy Spirit #2218 and Santa Sophia # 2520 attended, along with State Officers Sheri Kanagawa, 1st Vice Regent and Yvette Manard, Secretary. Mass Celebrants were Rev. Ricardo James, Pastor and Fr. Cleopas Nsom, Vicar Our Lady of Victory Church, Compton (visiting). Rev. Anthony Jimenez, Associate Pastor led prayers at reception. A beautiful mass and reception!

