



# The Angelus

Pennsylvania State Court

Shirley Hall, Pennsylvania State Regent



Volume X - Issue 1

Here Am I, Lord, I Come to Do Your Will.

Summer 2020

## State Officers 2019-2021

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## This 'n That...



### Shirley Hall, State Regent

*Let us continue to entrust our future to Mary and may Our Lady of Trust guide us in times of both fear and peace!*

When this newsletter is distributed, the top corner will read "SUMMER 2020." It will most likely be a summer like no other, as has been the spring, while we experienced a worldly pandemic brought on by the Corona-virus.

**"Every May, I think at all times on the great benefits I have received from my heavenly mother, even from my tenderest years."**  
— St. Gemma Galgani from *Wisdom from Women Saints* (Frederick, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2008)

And so, I look now at the **benefits** we have been receiving while doing what our country has asked of us. I am **so proud** of how you have adjusted to learning and using different communication skills with each other to accomplish your CDA business.

Please, don't miss the State Officer section of the *Angelus* that is designated for **LEADERSHIP!**

Again, it is necessary, as always, to share pertinent **INFORMATION** that will **benefit** the smooth operation of your court and new officers.

### REMINDERS:

1. **State & National Due Notices**—will be delayed until the reopening of the National Office
2. **Election of Officers**—to take place at May meeting or through email, telephone, facetime. **Local Court Officer List** to be filled out and mailed immediately to those indicated on form.
3. **Gift for National Regent**—due May 15, 2020
4. **National Registration**—due with form June 1, 2020
5. **National Meal Form**—due with a "local" court check
6. **Spring Financial Review**—to take place when your local area is open to make this happen
7. **Installation of Officers**—during the month of June and no later than September

*During this month of May, we thank God for our natural Mothers, living or deceased, and we praise God for our heavenly Mother, Mary, whom we love, honor and cherish! ♦*

### CDA Mission Statement

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

# News from National

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## Newsletter Schedule Quarterly Publications

Fall: September-November  
Winter: December-February  
Spring: March-May  
Summer: June-August

## Submission Deadlines

Fall: August 1  
Winter: November 1  
Spring: February 1  
Summer: May 1

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### Olga Samaniego, National Regent

State Regents,

I hope that you are all safe and well. I continue to receive many questions about the Convention. Please share the following info with your courts:

So far, the Convention is still on for July 15-19. We have been under contract with the Sheraton Hotel for four years, and they are not letting us out of the contract. I cannot cancel so close to the Convention without incurring thousands of dollars in fees and penalties to compensate the hotel for loss of revenue—unless we can meet certain "Act of God" criteria. So, the Convention is "a go." If that changes, I will let you know immediately.

Please send in your registration and meal reservations as soon as possible. Deadline is June 1. Each court should have received a packet, and the forms can also be found on our website.

We will have a special page in our Memorial book for CDA members we have lost due to Covid-19. Please bring those names with you to the Convention.

Our dues billing will be delayed a bit because our office is still closed. We hope to be able to go back to work in May, but that may be only with a skeleton staff. We will put out a one-time due date for dues as soon as we know when the billing will be ready. We will also revisit the June 1 deadline for financial reviews if we are still under shelter at home orders on June 1.

Please send in your officers' lists ASAP. We need to get all that into the computer before the Convention.

I know that these are difficult and uncertain times. Please continue to stay in contact with each other over phones and computers. Pray together and support each other.

The National Board and the Texas officers and committees are working hard to make sure that you will find the Convention to be both productive and enjoyable. I appreciate your prayers and your support, and I hope to see you and the courts from your state in July!! You are in my prayers!! ♦



Pro-Life Bench—Just outside of Philadelphia  
This is just one of the PA State Pro-Life Charities

## The Labouré Society - "A Greater Call"

### Peggy Guckin, National Director and Past State Regent

Several weeks ago, I received a phone call from Sherry Nilles, National Regent-Elect to see if I would speak to a young lady, Erin Lyons. Erin called me and we spoke on the phone and she told me her story. Erin has been accepted to enter the Sisters of the Holy Cross; however, she has a school debt. Please read her story on the next page. We are asking all courts to donate to the Labouré Society through the National Office and **please earmark your donation for Erin Lyons**. Let's help her reach her goal and begin formation in religious life. Please keep her and all her classmates in your prayers. ♦

## The Labouré Society and Sisters of the Holy Cross



### Erin Lyons, Aspirant

I was raised Catholic (the youngest of three children), and lived most of my life in Southern California. As a child, I enjoyed attending Masses at a nearby Benedictine Monastery, as well as interacting with the cheerful monks who lived on the grounds. My faith was primarily formed by my mother's witness. She was a quiet example

of what a woman and mother should be. We were very close, and her strong devotion to God, as expressed in prayer, meditation, and spiritual readings, made a lasting impression on me. I wanted nothing more than to follow in her footsteps.

Unfortunately, while in high school I gradually drifted away from the faith. I stopped going to church and spent most of my time in school and working. It was a confusing period in my life because I still believed in God and wanted to be a saint, but the "rules" of the Church seemed too difficult to follow. I felt that, since I was young, I had plenty of time to be "free," and would take my faith more seriously in the future.

I graduated from California State University, San Marcos with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, eventually qualifying to work in the Emergency Room. I really enjoyed working with patients and my coworkers, but I couldn't shake the feeling God was calling me to something greater, something more profound. While attending silent retreats centered on Eucharistic adoration I felt the emptiness inside me slowly fade and, although thoughts of religious life began to enter my mind, the desire for marriage, family, and a secular career remained strong. I wavered between the two vocations, but the decision seemed daunting—I remember wanting to put the choice entirely in God's hands.

It was during a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Fatima that my calling to religious life grew more insistent. From that moment on, I was seriously considering a religious vocation. Ending my career was painful, but it was the right thing to do, and I haven't regretted it. Through the silent retreats and the guidance of my spiritual director, I reached out to the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Following meetings with their vocation director, and visits to their community, I fell in love with the order. I'm particularly attracted to their charism, which includes supporting the priest's ministry through devotion to Our Lord's suffering in His Passion. The Sisters also actively take part

in domestic, administrative, and retreat work focused on family ministry.

Thanks to Divine Providence, and the fervent prayers of my mother, I feel I have finally found God's calling. My one desire is to continually grow with the sisters, serving priests, families, and communities in whatever capacity God desires.

In order to follow God's calling, I have partnered with a Catholic non-profit organization called The Labouré Society that helps people with religious vocations overcome student loans through fundraising. I am fundraising for my class of 22 aspirants from all across the country, all with the desire to become a priest or religious sister. The Labouré Society takes the unique role of Simon of Cyrene, they cannot take the cross (our student loan debt) away from us but they can help us carry the burden of the cross. God willed that this cross of debt be in our lives for a reason and the evil one is eager to make us feel that our call to religious life is out of the question and an impossible task. As always, God turns what seems like something negative into something good. This amazing group of 22 aspiring vocations are working together to fundraise for each other and therefore help one another enter their prospective community or diocese.

We all hope to begin our formation within the church as religious members by this summer and therefore we each have a goal of \$60,000 to reach by June 30th, 2020. We pray that we are successful in this journey so that we can all answer God's call as soon as possible.

Please pray that my fellow Labouré classmates and I can resolve the student loan debt blocking our path to religious life. As you know, the Church desperately needs new priests, sisters, and brothers. With your help, our class will soon reach its goal of serving Christ and humanity.

You can learn more at [rescuevocations.org/erin](https://rescuevocations.org/erin)

May the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and the protection of our Heavenly Mother be with you all! ♦



*Sisters of the Holy Cross*



# Court Chatter

## ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN DIOCESE Court Our Lady of the Alleghenies, #1755 Hollidaysburg



Easter baskets were prepared by Court Our Lady of the Alleghenies, #1755 for the residents at St. Leonard's Home. There are currently 20 residents; 24 baskets were delivered. The baskets included a handmade cross, tissues, a prayer card, Chapstick, candy and plastic Easter eggs containing 75 cents (since we were unable to conduct bingo in March). Hopefully, the basket cheered up the residents during this difficult time and let them know we are thinking about them.

## Court Joan of Arc #716 Tea

Court Joan of Arc held a tea at personal care home, John Paul II Manor, on February 28th, 2020. A good time was had by all! Committee Chair was Constance Stransky who did a tremendous job!



Left to right, A volunteer from John Paul Manor; members: Lillian Repko, Harriet Maurey, Constance Stransky, Committee Chair for Tea; Sandy Inzana, Recording Secretary; middle back: Catherine Iapalucci, Mary Lou Zimmerman, Dot DeAngelo, Regent; and Monna George, Treasurer. Back row, top left: Barbara Stack, Mary Mastrini and Millie Bodenschaz. Present, but not in photo: Mary Jo Fitzsimmons.

## PHILADELPHIA ARCHDIOCESE Quarterly Meeting

State Regent, Shirley Hall, attended Philadelphia Diocesan Meeting.



Seated, left to right: Peggy Guckin, Shirley Hall, Tina Dambach and Lynn Kelly  
Standing, left to right: Sue Sharer, Mary Moretz, Colette McCaffrey and Marleen Duley

## Court St. Francis de Sales #2617

Court St. Francis de Sales distributed food from the Matthew 25 Food Cupboard in a new way during the pandemic. Since the pandemic, they have been servicing 110 families a month. Thanks to generous donors, food and money donations are up to help service the many new families in the area that are in need.



Tina Dambach



Mary Moretz



**WORKSHOP – 2020  
IT IS TIME...  
BELIEVE IT OR NOT...  
IT WILL BE HERE  
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!!  
Shirley Hall, State Regent**

**It is time—to get serious  
about our Workshop!!  
Believe it or not—**

**it is scheduled for November 6-7, 2020**

The Workshop Registration Form is prepared and will be in the mail to the **newly-elected regents** as soon as we receive all the 2020-22 Local Court Officer Lists.

**The fees—REGISTRATION—\$20.00 by October 15, 2020  
Saturday Luncheon Buffet—\$22.00 by October 15, 2020**

**It will be here before you know it—**Penn Stater Hotel & Conference Center does know it and is ready for us.

The price of the room is \$114 + tax and reservations may be made @ 1-800-233-7505, referencing **GROUP CODE: CDOA20a** or by their secure website: **www.pennstatehotels.com**. Reservations must be made by **October 6, 2020** for the group rate.

Again, though, we need your HELP!! Remember the “clipboard” from convention when you signed for different State ministeries. **NOW**, sign again, by telling us what you would like to hear from your State Officers at Workshop. ♦

**R-A-I-N**

**Margaret T. Giordano, First Vice State Regent**



My Dear Catholic Daughter Sisters, I have a feeling that all this staying at home and social distancing—staying apart from each other—is somehow bringing us closer together. We take less for granted and reach out—by phone, text, email, snail mail—and reach out to those we have not been in touch with.

As a teacher, I myself am learning more each and every day about how to conduct my virtual classes, but there are times when I am completely frustrated and drained. Fortunately, small victories help me get through this. My coworkers and I recently had an IU13 school psychologist Zoom with our students. She stressed that we need to take care of ourselves because all of us are grieving in some way—loss of loved ones, loss of face-to-face classes, loss of freedom, etc. Our presenter said we must **RAIN: Recognize** what we are grieving about; **Allow** ourselves to grieve; **Investigate** new ways to be together; **Nurture** ourselves. We need to take care of ourselves, so we can get through this, so let’s all **RAIN**. ♦

**In the CDA National Project Spotlight:  
Support Our Aging Religious**

**Lynn Kelly, National Projects State Chairman**



Did you know that SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious) was founded in 1986 with \$25,000 seed money received from Catholic Daughters. SOAR! is a non-profit organization of persons who are dedicated to its mission of 34 years to provide for the practical needs facing aging and infirm Catholic religious Sisters, Brothers and Priests.

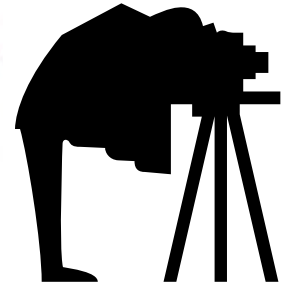
The NEED is great. At the end of 2013, 68% of the religious in the United States were 70 or older. By 2024, it is projected that a full three-quarters will be 75 or older. Many communities have insufficient funds to care for elderly members. SOAR! is recognized in The Official Catholic Directory and has awarded over 1,000 grants to over 400 religious communities, totaling over \$14 million.

We need to support our retired religious now more than ever. Today, SOAR! supports the efforts of the institutional Church, distributing grants to congregations across the country to address their immediate practical needs and ensure the safety, comfort and dignity of the aging religious. SOAR has provided funds for many communities; here is a list of the 2019 Pennsylvania grants:

- ♦ Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh—Bakerstown  
Purchase safety heaters, install sound panels and bed rails
- ♦ Congregation of Divine Providence—Allison Park  
Upgrade kitchen equipment
- ♦ Benedictine Sisters of Erie—Erie  
Renovate bathrooms for accessibility
- ♦ Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius—Danville  
Purchase patio furniture and outdoor awning
- ♦ Sisters, Servants of Immaculate Heart of Mary—Scranton—Replace flooring in the infirmary
- ♦ Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia—Aston  
Upgrade the security camera system
- ♦ Sisters of the Order of Saint Basil the Great, Jesus Lover of Humanity Province—Jenkintown  
Replace air conditioning units
- ♦ Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus—Reading  
Replace damaged roof
- ♦ Bernardine Franciscan Sisters—Reading  
Make facility repairs and technology upgrades

Additional information about SOAR can be found on their website: <https://soar-usa.org/>. Help them help your community by donating through the State’s donation form on the PA CDA website. From **cdapa.com**, select events, then National Projects and Charities, then STATE DONATION FORM. Or type **cdapa.com/forms/donation-form.pdf** on the address line. ♦

—Email Lynn Kelly at: [eirelynn28@comcast.net](mailto:eirelynn28@comcast.net)



## 2020 PA State Education Contest Winners

*Margaret Marie Gowaty, State Education Chairman*

Congratulations to all our State Level winners! There were fewer entries this year, which was surprising because we usually have an increase in National Convention years, but the entries were higher in quality. I would like to encourage all CDA members to enter something into the Adult Division. Everyone puts emphasis on the kids but why not get your court members to participate? I look forward to having every slot be filled with a winner next year.

### Art Division 1

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Nadia Morrison  
Jeremy Joseph  
Kalena Rokita

St. Thomas #1483, Franklin  
Sharon #507, Sharon  
Blessed Madonna #2521, State College

### Art Division 2

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Evelyn Viehl  
Madison Davis  
Sydney Jordan

Monessen #776, Monessen  
Mystical Rose #2628, Philadelphia  
Our Lady of Fatima #2739, West Chester

### Art Division 3

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Sean Kirkland  
Rachel Dangelo  
Dafu (Curtis) Doi

Sharon #507, Sharon  
Blessed Madonna #2521, State College  
Easton #358, Easton

### Art Division 4

No Entries

### Poetry Division 1

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Genevieve Naylor  
Shane Curry  
Junito Kutruff

St. Rita #523, Tyrone  
St. Dominic #2222, Philadelphia  
Our Lady of Victory #722, Hastings

### Poetry Division 2

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Zachary Zupon  
Maureen Hulburt  
Gianna Stiehler

Joan of Arc #716, Cresson  
Blessed Madonna #2521, State College  
Washington #1651, Washington

### Poetry Division 3

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Alaina Sunar  
Ashley Barletta  
No Entry

Sharon #507, Sharon  
St. Thomas #1483, Franklin

### Poetry Division 4

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Carol A. Long  
Kathleen Byron  
Antoinette M. DeAngelis

St. Thomas #1483, Franklin  
Monesson #776, Monesson  
Sharon #507, Sharon

### Essay Division 1

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Gus Clement  
Megan Farabaugh  
Jack McNulty

Blessed Madonna #2521, State College  
Our Lady of Victory #722, Hastings  
St. Thomas #1483, Franklin

### Essay Division 2

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Marianna Becker  
Julian Latvis  
Mark Clement

Sharon #507, Sharon  
Easton #358, Easton  
Blessed Madonna #2521, State College

### Essay Division 3

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Destiny Inks  
Audrey Clement  
Joseph Martin

Westinghouse #759, Turtle Creek  
Blessed Madonna #2521, State College  
Queen of Peace #1023, Lancaster

### Computer Art Division

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

James Hinojosa  
No Entry  
No Entry

Queen of Peace #1023, Lancaster

### Computer Art Division 2

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Elizabeth Prushan  
Daniel Matesich  
Jack Miller

Mystical Rose #2628, Philadelphia  
Sharon #507, Sharon  
Ave Maria #399, Lock Haven

### Computer Art Division 3

### Computer Art Division 4

### Music Division 2

No Entries  
No Entries  
No Entries

### Music Division 3

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Lisabeth Stephan  
Luke Reiter  
No Entry

Queen of Peace #1023, Lancaster  
Sharon #507, Sharon

### Photography Division 2

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Colin Liederbach  
Madison Keller  
Isabella Magestro

St. Thomas #1483, Franklin  
Monessen #776, Monessen  
Sharon #507, Sharon

### Photography Division 3

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Helayna Bradac  
No Entry  
No Entry

Sharon #507, Sharon

### Photography Division 4

First Place  
Second Place  
Third Place

Christina Bell  
Ann Nemec  
No Entry

St. Theresa #562, Blairsville  
Patricia #998, Kittaning

—Email Margaret Marie Gowaty at: [margiekid1@aol.com](mailto:margiekid1@aol.com)

## Lucky Lottery Calendars

Calendars for 2020 – 2021 are still available.

Remember, the sale of these calendars keeps our state dues down  
and helps with day-to-day operations of the State Court and to give to our charities.

Makes a great gift for Priest Appreciation Day and/or Father's Day too.

Contact Lisa McCann via phone or email.

## May we present for your reading pleasure...OuR ThOuGhTs On LeAdErShIP...

### Our Youth, the Leaders of Tomorrow

Shirley Hall, State Regent

**L**EADERSHIP in youth is the practice of one experiencing authority over themselves and others!!

Good LEADERSHIP skills may be found in, to name a few:

- ◆ decision making,
- ◆ problem solving,
- ◆ self-awareness

Developing good leadership skills helps youth to focus. One of the great ways for that to happen is through SPORTS!

Is LEADERSHIP something we are born with or is it developed? Some youth seem to be natural LEADERS while others prefer to be followers. As the grandparent of two boys very active in baseball and football, I have observed one as a player/leader, the other being more of a player/observer.

Playing sports helps young people develop the ability to work effectively and it helps them develop confidence and make quick decisions necessary to succeed in LEADERSHIP roles.

With many parents working from home, dynamics are changing in the household. Our youth are asked to self-study, help out with more chores and be creative in their schedule of the day. This can be an opportunity to gain experience overseeing or leading younger siblings.

Being a leader means using your skills to make the world a better place.

*"Start children off the way they should go, even when they are old they will not turn from it." —Prov. 22:6 ◆*

### The Impact of Leadership on the Circle of Love Quality of Life

Lisa McCann, 2nd Vice State Regent



Without a doubt there is not one Catholic Daughter who has not been impacted in one way or another with the Coronavirus. To my sisters who have faced the ultimate sorrow of losing a loved one, please know my prayers are with you.

We must not disregard the very real impact the isolating and social distancing has on every one of us. Even if we are isolating with a full household, at a retirement home, with a spouse or truly by yourself, we all are impacted in some way. We, as Catholic Daughters of the Americas, can achieve fulfilling the Quality of Life segment of our Circle of Love in many ways. We may not, at this trying time, be able to complete the projects we planned for our courts together, but each and every one of us can pick up the telephone and reach out with compassion and support to our sister "Daughters." You do not have to be a court officer, a court leader, to lead with your heart. Pick up that telephone and connect! ◆

### Leaders of Tomorrow



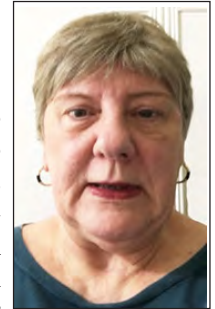
Jeanette Kitch, State Treasurer

**L**eadership plays a big role in the family. Some people are followers and some are leaders. Leaders come from good role models in the family, school, or church (grandparents, parents teachers, coaches, priests and nuns). Good leaders are people who are admired by all. We need to encourage our children and young adults to strive to be our leaders of tomorrow. ◆

### Defining Leadership

Sue Kelly

Leadership State Chairman



**T**he definition of leadership is more of a description. Anytime you use your influence to affect the thoughts and actions of others, you are engaging in leadership. That means you can be a leader in most any situation, such as, a parent, spouse, friend, citizen or CDA member.

The description of leadership includes the capacity to lead and the power and ability to lead other people. For some leadership is motivation, for others it equals results and it can also represent inspiration.

Essential leadership skills include:

- To give meaning
- Team building
- Motivating others
- Developing others
- Empowering others, and
- Communication skills

If you want to lead successfully, respect the creativity of others and learn from the people around you. ◆

—Email Sue Kelly at: [vozarkelly@zoominternet.net](mailto:vozarkelly@zoominternet.net)

### Priest Appreciation Sunday – June 7

**A**t the present time, most of us in PA have a stay-at-home order in effect until June 4th. At this point, we do not even know when we will be able to go to church for the Celebration of Mass. Please remember your priests on Sunday, June 7th.





## Education vs. Leadership

*Margaret T. Giordano, First Vice State Regent*

As well as providing direction, encouragement, and assistance, worthy leaders demonstrate courage, desire, poise, commitment and spirit. They cultivate the strengths and talents of individuals and form teams committed to achieving like objectives.

With the recent election of our new local court officers this May, it is a perfect time to think about education in leadership. Will the court also have new chairmen and new activities in the upcoming term? How might that look? What variables does that entail?

The CDA Tools of the Trade at <https://www.catholicdaughters.org/ToolsOfTheTrade.shtml> are a guideline for leadership at each level of office. The national website also includes information from National Regent Elect and Chairman of Leadership, Sherry Nilles, on Circle of Love Leadership with several links: *Tips for Leaders, Complete Walk the Walk* and *Leadership Update—December*.

I strongly encourage all officers and members to attend the upcoming Pennsylvania State Workshop November 6–7, 2020 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College. This is the perfect time and place, not only to build leadership skills for the Good of the Order, but also to come together in Unity and Charity as an organization. Just as we are all individual parts of the one Mystical Body of Christ, in CDA, we also are part of one organization, and we partake of the one CDA Mission: “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.”

Education is a lifetime experience. While each of us may know a lot about something, none of us knows a lot about everything. Thus, let us learn from one another, past officers and chairman, long-time members and new members. Each member brings her own experiences and strengths to the court. All members have something to offer as God gave us talents that we are to develop and use to do what He wants us to. Each member, no matter how experienced, can learn something more to enhance her current leadership skills and develop new ones.

*(First paragraph inspired by: 8 Must-Have Qualities of an Effective Leader, by Michael Page.)* ♦

## Let it Rain!

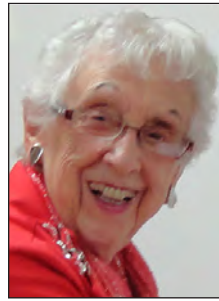
*Janet Oesterling, Membership State Chairman*

When I think about membership, I believe it has a two-fold purpose—those being recruitment and retention. If we don’t recruit new members our courts will become weak. But while we are recruiting new members we need to focus on retaining our current members.

A court is like the earth without any rain. So let’s shower our courts with rain of new members. We need a flood of new members to help keep Pennsylvania Catholic Daughters strong. Let it Rain. Let it Rain. ♦

—Email Janet Oesterling at: [jmoest@yahoo.com](mailto:jmoest@yahoo.com)

## Transition - 2020-22 Local Court Officers



*Patricia M. Gildea*

*Parliamentarian*

### What’s in the Works??

At some point, each local CDA court will have election of officers for 2020-22. When the election takes place at a court meeting by plurality vote or by motion, if there is only one nominee for an office, each officer shall assume the office to

which she has been elected, with or without installation, thirty (30) days after her election. —*Bylaws: Article XIII, Section D-Elections, pg 39.*

### What’s Next??

Set meeting date for the NEW 2020-22 officers with the 2018-20 officers:

♦ Each outgoing officer brings all data pertaining to her office—responsibilities, instructions, minute books, ledgers, reports, bank books and statements, forms, info from National and State Courts and Diocesan Committee, BYLAWS BOOK, which outlines duties of each office. —*Article XII, Local Courts, Sec. 7—Duties of Local Ct. Officers, pages 35-37.*

♦ Each outgoing officer explains duties she performs—displaying books, documents, etc. Each new officer now knows the responsibilities of her sister officers.

♦ Develop tentative list of Committee Chairs, with at least two other members on each committee. Call each for her commitment to serve.

♦ Review upcoming events, develop tentative yearly calendar, consider new project/program to present as an Officers’ Recommendation at next Court meeting.

♦ Be “on call” to help a sister officer!—Always here to help. ♦

—Email Pat Gildea at: [pagildea1@gmail.com](mailto:pagildea1@gmail.com)

*Gloria Kissel*

*State Newsletter Chairman*

I wish more courts would send in their newsletter. What I have received are really beautiful and informative. I congratulate all the courts who participated in the Newsletter Contest. Good luck to all our first-place winners, I look forward to hearing which ones will win on the National level.



### Category 1 - Division 1

1st Place Court Westinghouse #759, Turtle Creek

2nd Place Court Brownsville #1141, Brownsville

### Category 1 - Division II

1st Place Court St. Francis De Sales #2617, Philadelphia

2nd Place Court St. Dominic #2222, Philadelphia

### Category 2 - Division 1

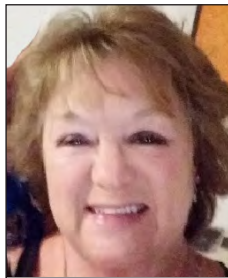
Court Rev. Patrick McArdle #448, Bellefonte

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Rosary Relay for Priests

*Dolores V. Croyle*

*Spiritual Enhancement Chairman*

**Twenty-Four Hours of Continuous Recitation of the Rosary for Priests**



### What?

Meditation and recitation of one Mystery of the Rosary and related prayers. One half hour is given on this day in thanksgiving to God for our priests and to implore the protection and loving care of Our Lady, Mother of all Priests, for all her priestly sons.

### When?

Feast of the Sacred Heart—June 19, 2020. By the end of twenty-four hours, the entire world will have been encircled in prayer for our priests.

### Who?

The Family of God—all Catholic Daughters and their family and friends.

### Where?

At shrines located throughout the world; at local parishes who choose to participate; and in individual homes.

### Why?

In 2002, Saint John Paul II announced an Annual World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests to be held on the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Inspired by the Venerable Patrick Peyton's saying, "The Family that Prays together stays together," Worldpriest, Inc. decided to unite God's family throughout the world in recitation of the Rosary on this Feast Day.

### How?

Background, instructions, designated shrines/locations along with the time and Mystery they have been as-

signed (The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception—a CDA national charity—is #54 on the website list), and any other necessary information can be found at:

[www.worldpriest.com/annual-global-rosary-relay](http://www.worldpriest.com/annual-global-rosary-relay)

As subscribers to the National Shrine's mailing list, Pattie Fromknecht learned of the Rosary Relay last year. With four days to prepare, Court Prince Gallitzen #2625 organized a local Rosary Relay at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, invited nearby Catholic Daughters and all their families and friends to attend, and prepared a beautiful worship aid to distribute to attendees. The worship aid included background on the Rosary Relay Program, all prayers recited during the Rosary and the Mysteries with meditations that had been assigned to them.

Thank you, Pattie and Court Prince Gallitzen, for your amazing job and for allowing me to share this program.

### Special Prayer for Priests

LORD JESUS CHRIST, eternal High Priest, you offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the Cross and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit gave your priestly people a share in your redeeming sacrifice. Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests. Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood may be ever more conformed to you, the divine Master. May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience. Let them be shepherds according to your own heart, single-minded in service to you and to the Church and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life. Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, your Mother and ours, draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. AMEN. ♦

—His Holiness Benedict XVI

—Email Dolores Croyle at: [scocro@comcast.net](mailto:scocro@comcast.net)

## Praying Times...



*Essie Walker, National Secretary-Treasurer and National Representative*

Dear Catholic Daughters,

I know staying home has been a challenge. I hope you are staying home and following all the guidelines in order to stay safe. As we all can agree, these are praying times and that prayer is a powerful tool. Let us continue to pray for one another. Please reach out to your families, CDA members and friends to make sure they are okay; especially our members who live alone and the ones in nursing homes.

Within your local courts, a Nominating Committee should be in place. In May, the elections of your local court officers will take place. Since members are unable to meet, your nominating committee can use conference calling to conduct their meetings. There is a free service called Free

Conferencing or you can sign up for Zoom.

We are three months away from our National Convention. Plans are still in motion for our 2020 National Convention to be held in Dallas, Texas. Your National Officers look forward to seeing you there. The Convention will be spiritual and informational.

Please continue to support your State Board and one another. Blessings. ♦

**Feb. Lottery Winners**

James M. Nemeč  
 Father Frank Karwacki  
 Tammy Etling  
 Josephine Pasquarelli  
 Lisa McCann  
 Letty Calvetti  
 Sylvia Fox  
 Jeannie Maguire  
 Theresa Gross  
 Sher Morse  
 Aldia Pavlik  
 Josephine Oddo  
 Belinda Handel  
 Charlotte Resek\*  
 Shirley Kurzynski  
 Louise Summerville  
 Caron Leath  
 Joanne Walker  
 Kim Kudrick  
 Nancy Daunce  
 Helen Wright  
 Sr. Betty Hart  
 Barbara Meusel  
 Suzanne O'Neil  
 Jay Shaffer  
 Eric Jasper  
 Kim Clemens  
 Court Washington #1651  
 Millie Bodenschatz  
 \*\$100 winner

**Feb. Selling Court**

Patricia #998  
 Our Lady of Victory #588  
 Lambing #314  
 SO Lisa McCann  
 SO Lisa McCann  
 St. Bernard #339  
 Sylvia Fox  
 St. Dominic #2222  
 Our Lady of Victory #588  
 Callistus #66  
 Allegheny #664  
 SO Lisa McCann  
 St. Bernard #339  
 Washington #1651  
 Westinghouse #759  
 Our Lady of Victory #722  
 SO Margaret Giordano  
 St. Dominic #2222  
 Doyle #932  
 Blessed Madonna #2521  
 Joan of Arc #716  
 SO Lisa McCann  
 St. James #1029  
 St. Thomas #1483  
 Lambing #314  
 St. Theresa #562  
 St. Catherine #1992  
 Washington #1651  
 Joan of Arc #716

**April Lottery Winners**

Letty Calvetti  
 Rosalee Spencer  
 Deacon Richard Malamut  
 Margaret Edinger  
 Janet Hill  
 Margaret Giordano  
 Pat Kowalski  
 John Rensel  
 Mary J. Snyder  
 Francis Shannon  
 Court Butler #443  
 Dave Novak\*  
 Jeanette Kitch  
 Court Rose Cecilia #1641  
 Marilou Belch  
 Jeanette Kitch  
 Christine McLaughlin  
 Carol Schubert  
 Fr. John Skirtich  
 Mary Strucko  
 Mary Dively  
 Carol Lutz  
 Linda Kubacka  
 Angela Deemer  
 Silva Tarbay  
 Mary Kowalski  
 Jean Hesler  
 William A. Soltis  
 Cynthia Greco  
 Eugenia Lippincott  
 \*\$100 winner

**April Selling Court**

St. Bernard #339  
 SO Lisa McCann  
 St. Mark #1097  
 SO Lisa McCann  
 Sylvia Fox  
 SO Margaret Giordano  
 St. Veronica #111  
 Erie #515  
 Our Lady of Victory #588  
 Our Lady of Victory #588  
 Butler #443  
 PSR Margaret Novak  
 Columbia #2  
 Rose Cecilia #1641  
 Bellevue #655  
 Columbia #2  
 Our Lady of Victory #588  
 Bellevue #655  
 Westinghouse #759  
 Easton #358  
 Our Lady of Alleghenies #1755  
 St. Catherine #1992  
 Washington #1651  
 St. Marys #890  
 St. Victoria #646  
 Prince Gallitzin #2625  
 Ave Maria #399  
 St. Gerard Magella #2751  
 Washington #1651  
 Easton #358

**Mar. Lottery Winners**

Scott Orolin  
 Laura Rumbol  
 Letty Calvetti  
 Helena Wallace  
 Nancy Anna  
 Richard Borkowski  
 Janet Trozzi  
 Sylvia Fox  
 Barb Brandon  
 Padre Pio Prayer Center  
 Ct. Westinghouse #759  
 Leona Haag  
 Barbara Minor  
 Letty Calvetti  
 Carol Shea  
 Charlotte Resek  
 John R. Morroni  
 Letty Calvetti  
 Jody Rhoads\*  
 Mary Grunthner  
 Rev. Christopher Barnes  
 Mary Van Cise  
 Court Ave Marie #650  
 Georgine Bogovich  
 Christina Bell  
 William Berkey  
 Marguerite Sweeney  
 Malinda Wright  
 Thomas Redding  
 Molly Fernan  
 Colette Diane Zollars  
 \*\$100 winner

**Mar. Selling Court**

St. Marys #890  
 Sylvia Fox  
 St. Bernard #339  
 St. Marys #890  
 Our Lady of Victory #722  
 St. Frances De Sales #2617  
 Washington #1651  
 Sylvia Fox  
 Butler #443  
 St. Frances De Sales #2617  
 Ct. Westinghouse #759  
 St. Rita #523  
 St. Bernard #339  
 St. Bernard #339  
 St. Mark #1097  
 Washington #1651  
 St. Victoria #646  
 St. Bernard #339  
 ND/PSR Peggy Guckin  
 Blessed Madonna #2521  
 Immaculate Conception #2454  
 Conception #35  
 Ave Maria #650  
 Westinghouse #759  
 St. Theresa #562  
 Uniontown #505  
 St. Dominic #2222  
 Coraopolis #965  
 St. Dominic #2222  
 St. Leo #356  
 Blessed Madonna #2521

**Got Pictures? Send them!**

*Peggy Guckin, National Director  
 Past State Regent  
 State Publicity Chairman*



I would like to thank all the courts who have submitted photos over the year (s) for the "Court Chatter" section of *The Angelus*. I know that PA courts are doing good works in their churches and in your communities. I hear about your fundraisers and all the good projects you do with our Circle of Love.

Some courts have beautiful newsletters; however, we don't see this information being sent in for your State Newsletter *The Angelus*. A hard copy of the newsletter is sent to all the regents, bishops of all our dioceses, State Chaplain, State Chairman and District Deputies. Many members receive each copy by email and it is also on our State website: [cdapa.com](http://cdapa.com). You can also see all the previous issues, dating back to the Fall of 2011.

Many members have smart phones—take pictures at your events. Email them right away to me so you don't forget. Don't wait. I will file them for the next edition. In your email, state your court name and #, the name of the event, a short description and names and titles of those in the photo(s), from left to right and by rows.

**"Be proud of your organization"** and all the good deeds you are doing. Share them with your sisters. Stay well, stay safe, stay strong with the Lord. Get your phones ready! ♦

—Email Peggy Guckin at: [mmg721@aol.com](mailto:mmg721@aol.com)

## Pennsylvania State Website

Pattie Fromknecht, State Web Designer



My thoughts and prayers are with everyone as I write this article. Yesterday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, the president extended “social distancing” to April 30, 2020. In my circle, we’ve taken to saying, “physical distancing” rather than “social distancing.” We are remaining social with one another, using electronics...the phone, emails, video chat, forums, this newsletter, and the like...but we are physically distancing ourselves from one another.

Many of us are also physically distancing ourselves from others by working from home. Designing and maintaining websites has been a plus for me this way, as I’m already working from home. I’ve noticed many websites have popped up for Covid-19 and some are noteworthy. **Ncov2019.live** is one such site—the skill of someone so young and their tenacity to delve into something so grave—amazing! *The New Yorker* wrote in their *Extracurricular* March 30, 2020 issue, “The High

Schooler Who Became a COVID-19 Watchdog: While his friends are worrying about whether the prom will be cancelled, Avi Schiffmann and his coronavirus-tracking site are navigating global fame.” Another eye-opening website: **Covid vs. US Daily Average Cause of Death** (USDACD). Both the Ncov2019 and Covid vs. USDACD are updated continuously.

The web is an awesome thing! Today, the majority of my email contains Covid-19 updates, editorials, how-tos, statistics...and the list goes on. Then, there are some, like the invitation from the National Shrine to join in prayer with them during their livestream of the Sunday Noon Mass. We watched; It was a full, high Mass; the choir physically distancing themselves from one another, was angelic-like. At the end of the general intercessions, imploring the aid of Mary, Health of the Sick, we prayed the following and I invite you to do the same:

“O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman people, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.”

I encourage you to visit our state and national web-sites for continued Catholic Daughters updates, as Covid-19 makes its impact known in our CDA circle.

The links to the websites above are:

Ncov2019.live: <https://ncov2019.live/>

*TheNewYorker*: <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2020/03/30/the-high-schooler-who-became-a-covid-19-watchdog>

Covid vs. US Daily Average Cause of Death: <https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/1712761/>

National Shrine: <https://www.nationalshrine.org/>

Sunday Noon Mass: <https://www.nationalshrine.org/mass/>

State Website: <https://cdapa.com/>

National Website: <http://catholicdaughters.org/>

—Email Pattie Fromknecht at: [web@cdapa.com](mailto:web@cdapa.com)

## Quality of Life

Tina Dambach, Quality of Life State Chairman

Thank you to all the courts that submitted their Circle of Love Reports. It is so wonderful to see how you are being the feet and hands of Christ here in Pennsylvania.

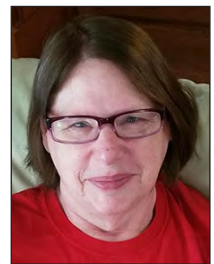
Many Courts held “Baby Showers,” collecting items to be used for crisis pregnancy organizations. Some used the time to also educate others about the center for which they were collecting items; others were more casual, offering refreshments, even a little wine.

Several other courts held sock and/or glove drives collecting hundreds of these items to be used for various homes and organizations. One court collected flip-flops for a halfway house to be used for shower shoes and collected so many they were also able to supply four other unrelated facilities including a veteran’s home. Another court found a need for personal care items at a veteran’s home after her brother died at the facility. A couple of courts focused on collecting items to aid in ministry to Haiti.

Other courts made sandwiches for the homeless and gathered to pack the lunches to be given out. Another cooked meals to be taken to isolated, disabled and elderly persons through a local organization.

As I said, our Catholic Daughters have a knack for finding and filling needs. The most wonderful thing is that they recruit others to help with their projects—other courts, church and family members, and the community at large, thereby spreading that love and service wider and showing other women the mission of Catholic Daughters. ♦

—Email Tina Dambach at: [vze2rhtt@verizon.net](mailto:vze2rhtt@verizon.net)



## Committees Generate Membership

Janet Oesterling, State Membership Chairman



Members are what keeps our courts strong. Member sharing their time and talent will give them a personal satisfaction of accomplishment. We highly recommend that your court create two very important committees that will get members involved. The top two committees that cover almost everything under our Circle of Love program are Spiritual Enhancement and Quality of Life. Each committee should have at least three members or more. Below are a few suggestions.

### Spiritual Enhancement

Liturgical opportunities; Eucharistic Ministers; distribute Communion to shut-ins; wake services for members; reciting Rosary at court meetings

### Charitable Ministries

Prepare meals for family of deceased members or parish members; food basket to needy family at Thanksgiving

### Local Charities

Gabriel Project; St. Vincent DePaul Society; Salvation Army, Red Cross or Goodwill; Food Pantry or Meals on Wheels

### Personal Satisfaction

Retreats for members and parish ladies; Bible or book study; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; pilgrimages to local shrines and other religious locations

### Clergy, Seminarians, Deacons and Women Religious

Priest Appreciation (first Sunday in June); pray for increased vocations; provide chaplain with chaplain pin and subscription to *Share* magazine

### Miscellaneous Spiritual Enhancements

Prepare a presentation on the lives of woman saints; schedule a movie night on saints—popcorn/fellowship

### Quality of Life

Family health; volunteer at a long-term facility; visit people in personal care facility; visit individuals who are confined to their home; invite a speaker to your meeting—Hospice, caregiver, etc.

### Community Issues

Support local organizations in need; become involved in emergency response programs

### World Issues

Support our National and State projects; Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity; March for Life ([www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org)); Support our Troops ([www.uso.org](http://www.uso.org)); Catholic Extension and Catholic Relief Services; National Center on Sexual Exploitation

### Protection of the Earth

Participate in a recycling program; participate in Earth Day celebration; address personal identity theft—police can give a presentation regarding protecting yourself ♦  
—Email Janet Oesterling at: [jmoest@yahoo.com](mailto:jmoest@yahoo.com)

## I AM

By Helen Mallicoat

*I was regretting the past  
And fearing the future.  
Suddenly my Lord was speaking:*

*"My name is I AM." He paused.  
I waited. He continued,  
"When you live in the past  
With its mistakes and regrets,  
It is hard. I am not there,  
My name is not I WAS."*

*When you live in the future  
With its problems and fears,  
It is hard. I am not there.  
My name is not I WILL BE.*

*When you live in this moment,  
It is not hard. I am here.  
My name is I AM.*

## What Does It Mean to Be a Practicing Catholic

*continued from back page*

articulated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Being a practicing Catholic means that all activities, such as worship, work, family, friends, leisure are ways to serve God and bring His presence into the world, but most importantly, to communicate not only one's faith in Jesus but also faith of Jesus.

Clearly, being a practicing Catholic goes hand-in-hand with being active. I would use an analogy from the world of sports. Let's look at football. A player can have all the team plays memorized and be able to explain them, describe and analyze them, but ultimately it comes down to putting them into practice and executing them on the football field. Sometimes, a player who does not practice and execute the way his team needs him to does not get to play in the game or is put on an inactive list. But it should not be like that with us. Life is not a game and we need to remember that even if we at times fail, we know that our merciful God is always willing to give us another chance.

Let us remember that today and every day, we are called to look hopefully to the future while committing ourselves to God in the present and building a deeper communion with Him and with His son, Jesus Christ. We are in the midst of the Season of Easter, so let us allow the blessings of this most joyous season, especially the peace and love of the Risen Christ, live visibly in our hearts and the power of His resurrection always guide all our steps and help us to experience renewed strength to witness to God's gift of new life. ♦

*Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
Pennsylvania State Court  
Spiritual Intention*

The Mass is offered at Saint Therese of the Child Jesus,  
Altoona, PA at 10:30 A.M. on the third Sunday of the month.  
Proceeds benefit the Pontifical North American College in  
Rome helping the Seminarians who are studying there.

For: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Intention: \_\_\_\_\_

*Happy Anniversary*

*Marialice and Frank Sagan*

Requested by: Peggy Guckin, National Director

*Happy Birthday*

*Danielle Christian, niece*

*Adam Christian, nephew*

*Sr. Mary Paul, DM, sister*

*Theresa Ann Hauck, sister*

*Nicole Kreider, daughter*

*Jada Hoskins, granddaughter*

*Sandra Sultzbach, mother-in-law*

*Tom Hauck, brother-in-law*

*Valerie Hatfield, daughter*

*Jeremy Hatfield, Jr., grandson*

*Karen Zeiset, longtime friend and co-worker*

Requested by: Margaret T. Giordano

*Sr. Mary Paul, DM*

*Theresa Ann Hauck*

*Lee Ann Hrycaj*

*Nicole Kreider*

*Linda Greineder*

*Ruth Zankl*

*Roberta Stefanow*

*Valerie Hatfield*

*Robin Burgoon*

Requested by: Court Queen of Peace #1023

***State Spiritual Intention Report***

This report shows the many people whom we have included in our Spiritual Intentions in March, April & May 2020. Donations are forwarded to the National office to benefit the North American Pontifical College in Rome and are much appreciated by the seminarians there. Please consider using our Intention cards in the future. **Send Spiritual Intentions to Margaret Giordano, First Vice State Regent. Her address is on the front page of this newsletter. Thank you!**

*Happy Birthday*

*Carol Bogacz*

*Sherry Nilles*

*Dorothy Mankowski*

Requested by: Peggy Guckin, National Director

*Prayerful Lent and Blessed Easter*

*All Those Who Planned to be Our March Retreatants*

Requested by: Court Queen of Peace #1023

*Blessings Throughout this Holy Easter Season/*

*Easter Blessings*

*All CDA Members*

Requested by: Court Queen of Peace #1023

*All Pennsylvania CDA Members*

Requested by: CDA PA Officers

*Blessings/Get Well/Healing/Health and Blessings*

*Joe Lebano*

Requested by: Margaret T. Giordano

*Lorraine Gribben*

*Lorraine Andrews*

*Special Intention*

Requested by: Peggy Guckin, National Director

*Special Intention*

*All those affected by the pandemic*

Requested by: CDA PA State Officers

Be Safe/Safety from the Coronavirus

*Everyone*

Requested by: Margaret T. Giordano

*All People, especially those who have contracted the virus, first responders, and those who care for the sick*

Requested by: CDA PA State Officers

Welcome

*Tammy Rivera*

*Marilyn Iyengar*

Requested by: Court Queen of Peace #1023

Welcome Back to Philadelphia as Our Shepherd

*His Excellency Archbishop Nelson Perez*

Requested by: Peggy Guckin

Peace and Comfort

*Richard and Rose Holschlag*

Requested by: Peggy Guckin

Rest in the Peace of Christ/Rest in Peace

Repose of the Soul

*Johanna, mother of member Susan*

Requested by: Court Westinghouse #759

*Ronald S. Godla*

Requested by: Pat Godla, Court Monessen #776

*Melissa Breitenback Hook*

Requested by: Court Queen of Peace #1023

*Chester Ostrowski*

*Marie Robinson*

Requested by: Margaret Bradley,  
Court Our Lady of the Alleghenies #1755

*John Kacher*

Requested by: Margaret Bradley and  
Dorothy Compton, Court OLA #1755

*Anne Marie Dunn*

*Court Holy Trinity #1336*

Requested by: Peggy Guckin, National Director

Rest in the Peace of Christ/Rest in Peace

Repose of the Soul

*Mark Dambach, Brother of Tina Dambach*

*Mary Wender, Past State Officer, Charter Regent  
of Court Mystical Rose #2628*

*All PA Catholic Daughters We Have Loved  
and Lost This Month*

Requested by: Colette McCaffrey, State Secretary

*Dorotheann Simendinger*

*Court Our Lady of the Alleghenies #1755*

Requested by: CDA PA State Officers

*Cecilia Solties, Court Conception #35*

*Josephine Valenti, Past Regent Court St. Bernard #339*

*Mary Wender, Past State Officer, Charter,*

*Regent of Court Mystical Rose #2628*

Requested by: CDA PA State Officers

*Dolores Leath*

*Charlotte DiCola, life-long friend*

Requested by: Margaret T. Giordano

*Mary Painter, Past Regent*

Requested by: Court Queen of Peace #1023

With Sympathy/Deepest Sympathy and Prayers

*Audrey Albaugh*

*Jeanette Kitch*

*for*

*Alexandria Marie Albaugh*

Requested by: CDA PA State Officers

*The Family of Melissa Breitenback Hook*

Requested by: CarolAnne and James Ferreira  
Court Queen of Peace #1023

Thank you for saying "yes." May "Unity and  
Charity" prevail throughout your term in office

*Our local CDA officers elected in May 2020*

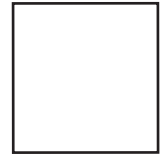
Requested by: Margaret T. Giordano

Thank You

*All caretakers and those on the front lines  
during this pandemic*

Requested by: Margaret T. Giordano

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas**  
**Peggy Guckin, PSR, National Director**  
**203 Harmony Ct.**  
**Bensalem, PA 19020**



Return Service Requested

## *What Does It Mean To Be A Practicing Catholic?*



*Father Jozef Kovacik, CDA State Chaplain*

Dear Catholics Daughters of the Americas and Friends,

**W**e encounter the term “practicing Catholic” in various contexts of life and as we mature we tend to understand the term better or sometimes the term takes on a different meaning. *So what does it mean exactly to be a practicing Catholic?* To reflect on this question the best way possible I think it is vital to look at what Jesus had to say on the issue of practicing his teachings and making them a way of life.

Jesus on one occasion said to the Pharisees and scribes: “Hypocrites, well did Isaiah prophesy about you when he said: This people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me” (Matthew 15: 7-8). Clearly, Jesus pointed out that to pray and say the right things is not enough and can even be hypocritical if a person’s heart is far from Him, meaning if they don’t seek to make His way of life their way of life. The way Jesus looked at other people, treated other people, talked to and about other people—can His way be our way? That in essence is what being a practicing follower of Christ is all about.

In the Gospels, we find many instances where Jesus corrects the thinking and the way of life of God’s people and especially their leaders. But notice that after Jesus corrects them, he does not say to his disciples: “OK, since this how your leaders live, you are excused from practicing your faith and religion, until your religious leaders (but we can also say other leaders) get their act together.” Instead, he provides the answer to the question of our day, “Why should I listen to religious leaders and practice what they say if they behave that way?” Even if they don’t practice what they preach, it doesn’t make their message any less true and important. You see, Jesus points to the fact that the message has its origin in God whom we seek to love with everything we’ve got.

One might ask: *“If I only go to church and do nothing else, am I still a practicing Catholic?”* The best way to answer that question would be to read the Gospel of Saint Matthew, 25: 31-46. Here, Jesus, who identifies himself with those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, ill and in prison, describes (if you will) the criteria, that God will use at the last judgement. In these verses we see quite clearly how Jesus looks at practicing one’s faith. We must remember that Jesus never says that praying and going to church is not important, but he does remind us that our worship does not end when the church door closes behind us.

When we look at the state of the world right now, we see that very little is certain. Our lives have been profoundly disturbed and changed and therefore we need to remember that the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) may prevent us from physical interaction and from uniting in a communal prayer when we gather together in our beautiful churches, but it cannot keep us from being united in spirit; spirit of prayer and thanksgiving as a way of life. Even in these times of fear and uncertainty, we are given plenty of opportunities to practice with love and commitment what we pray for and celebrate in our churches. If we indeed practice even to a greater degree the teachings of our Lord, by helping one another in any way we can, we will show that nothing can keep us from our communion with Him, especially in these difficult times.

We know that Jesus was completely honest with his audiences and told them that to follow Him would require a total daily commitment. Being a practicing Catholic depends on the meaning and depth of a person’s relationship with Christ. Our Church always encourages us to be active and to participate fully in the worship and life of the Church, and calls us to understand and accept the teachings of the Church and moral demands of the Gospel, as

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