



# The Rising Dawn

New York State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

December 2022

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Visit [CDANYS.org](http://CDANYS.org) and [CatholicDaughters.org](http://CatholicDaughters.org) for more news and information about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas®. Join us on Facebook at Catholic Daughters New York State and watch our YouTube Channel, just go to [youtube.com](http://youtube.com) and search NYS Catholic Daughters.

## Inspiration, Desire, & Duty

Theresa Duran, State Regent



My Dear Sisters,

How to even begin this message? I have been waiting for inspiration to hit as to what I would write about for December; and now December is nearing it's end...and still...

My desire is to provide a message that will enlighten, embolden, and inspire you, the reader. My duty is to get a newsletter out in a timely manner...I feel that right now, I fail at both. But, that does not mean I am a failure, and maybe that is where I find the inspiration to write.

As **Rosemary Fantaske** taught **Connie Breindel** and Connie shared with us all, "The Perfect One was crucified."

Here is my humility: I am not perfect! I make mistakes, I am often lazy, I put things off, I fail sometimes. However, I am sometimes a success: I take care of my family, I support my parish, I am good at my job, I am a loyal friend, and I am wholeheartedly devoted to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

As we look forward to our State Convention in May, we also begin to think about those of you that might want to step up to serve as a State Officer.

Some people considering running have fears of failure: "I can't speak in front of people like you do." "I can't keep things organized like Connie does." "I am not creative like Helene is." "I can't travel every weekend."

Well, I am here to tell you that none of us can do it all either. We had (and have) the fears. We can't do it all, all the time. But, we, your State Officers (past

and present) have also wanted to support CDA in New York State and serve our fellow members to the best of our ability.

Some State Officers start as State Treasurer and continue all the way until she is State Regent, however some members have stepped up to serve for only a term or two. Some have been fantastic as book officers, some have been really good in the State Regent/Vice Regents roles, some have been great speakers, some have been really creative, some have been great communicators, some have been great organizers...not all have been all (least of all me).

And so, here is my challenge, my request: face the fear, look deep inside, pray over it, and discern whether you might be willing to step forward and assist the Catholic Daughters of New York State during the next term.

Yes, travel is required, but not every weekend (this year we had a lot to make up for from pandemic days). Yes, attendance at events is important, but not presence at every event across the state (this term's officers chose to be where we were when we could). Yes, you may be asked to speak on occasion, but that is not the main function of the job (your fellow Officers are a great support.)

Ladies, don't let the fear of failure, the fear of not being perfect, the fear of not being able to serve all the way up to

*Continued on page 2*



# Running While Waiting

REV. RALPH SOMMER, STATE CHAPLAIN

We've always been told that Advent is a time of holy waiting. Jesus is coming back again and this season is designed to slow us down and reflect on welcoming him into our lives. Yet the opening prayer for the first Sunday of Advent is this:

“Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with

righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.”

Running forth? That doesn't sound like the “patient waiting” that is supposed to happen during this reflective season. And we're supposed to run with “righteous deeds”? Again, sounds busier than patient waiting. So what are we to make of this?

Recently I was waiting for someone to visit. She was running late, but I didn't know how late. So I didn't want to start some project or go anywhere, yet here I was with some time on my hands. So, used the time to tidy up my desk. (Still waiting.) Then, I remembered that there was a clothing drive coming up. So I looked through the closet to see what I might give away. (Still waiting.) I sent a few emails. (Oh look...she arrived!)

Were these “righteous deeds”? In a way yes. I improved my environment, did charity, and reached out to others. All while waiting. And when my guest arrived, I would have run to meet her, if my knees were in running shape. But you get the idea. Just as a child runs to greet his/her grandparent, so too we would run to Jesus when he arrives. And just as the child would say, “See grandma, I made this picture for you!” We can say to Jesus, “See Jesus, look what I did for you!”

With this image in mind, if Jesus showed up in your home tonight, what righteous deeds would you be presenting him with? (And might I gently suggest that hanging Christmas decorations early in Advent does not fully qualify as a “righteous deed”?) And would you indeed run toward him, or rather away from him? I guess it all depends on what you were doing when he arrived.

This Advent season is still a time for some quiet contemplation as we await the second coming of Jesus but if we must be busy during this time of waiting, let's see what good we can do until he gets here.

State Regent scare or dissuade you from running for State Office in 2023 or at some point in the future. All you really need is the desire to help strengthen, succeed, and sustain the New York State Court.

Serving as your State Regent has been one of the best blessings of my life and has created some of my most important friendships. I truly apologize if I have not lived up to your expectations and for the times I have let you down, but know this: I love you all and wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

In Unity & Charity,

Continued from front cover

# A Child For Christmas

MARY LYNN BORST,  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF FAMILY

We are deep into Fall and coming up upon the beautiful Advent season. The Catholic anticipation of Christmas celebrates Christ's human presence on earth during His life and ministry, honors His persistent physical presence in the Eucharist, and reminds us to be mindful of the second coming and to be watchful for the Lord's arrival. In a special way, we prepare to welcome the Holy Family, such a model of faithfulness for us. The act of preparing for Christmas strengthens our faith and resolve.

Recently, our family welcomed our first grandson, Gabriel. This beautiful gift has been so exciting, and the love that we immediately felt for him was immeasurable. We are so looking forward to all the joy he will bring to our family celebrations as well as our daily lives. I hope that you will all be enjoying your Advent and Christmas seasons with your families, too.

Has your CDA court planned a project for the Family spoke of the Circle of Love? Christmas often brings many opportunities to help families in our parishes and neighborhoods. Especially in these difficult economic times, families are always grateful for assistance we can give them. Any act of kindness to a family would be so welcome – it doesn't have to take extraordinary resources. Use your imagination and make a difference!

I look forward to receiving your reports in the New Year!

# 58<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL STATE CONVENTION New York

## SEEK JUSTICE, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD. — MICAH 6:8

The 58th Biennial NY State Convention promises to be an informative and productive time of faith, fun, and fellowship. It is supremely important that every court in our state be in attendance for this convention.

Through business meetings and daily Mass there is time to learn, time to share, time to pray, time to revel and time to relax. The days are filled with education and inspiration, the chance to offer advice and opinions, the opportunity to be involved in decisions about the future of CDA in NYS. The evenings are usually spent gathering with friends (old and new) to share experiences and perspectives on how to sustain and improve your court or just to relax and catch up.

A detailed convention packet will be mailed out in early January. The packet will contain registration and meal forms, hotel information, and specifics about convention activities.

All CDA members are invited and encouraged to attend the state convention. In addition to delegate seating, there will be areas for non-delegates to observe convention proceedings and workshops that are open to all registered members. Spouses and guests are invited to attend all liturgies and convention activities except the business meetings and workshops.

Each court Regent should have received from the National Office a delegate sheet along with instructions for electing the number of delegates and alternates to which the court is entitled. If your Regent did not receive this packet, she should contact the National Office immediately.

Courts must elect delegates to the convention in time to send the delegate list to the State Regent by March 31st. Please read the National Convention Mailing carefully to ensure that your court has the proper representation at the state convention.

Courts are allowed 2 delegates, one being the Regent if she attends, and an additional delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Expenses to the state convention *may* be paid by the court. We encourage all courts to have a Convention Fund for this purpose.

Delegates and alternates are elected, not appointed. It is wise to elect all the delegates and alternates to which your court is entitled, even if it appears that they cannot attend the convention. Sometimes delegates are able to attend after all. No delegate sheets will be accepted after March 31st. (See “Delegates” in the Bylaws page 29)

**This is an overview of the convention cost to aid in your planning. Daily registration and Commuter Meal prices will also be available and will be detailed in the Convention Mailing.**

### ONE NIGHT PACKAGE

Friday OR Saturday  
*Accommodations for 1 night, 1 dinner*  
 Single: \$195.00 pp  
 Double: \$115.50 pp  
 Triple: \$89.00 pp  
 Quad: \$75.75 pp

### TWO NIGHT PACKAGE

Friday and Saturday  
*Accommodations for 2 nights, 2 dinners, 1 lunch and 1 brunch*  
 Single: \$445.00 pp  
 Double: \$286.00 pp  
 Triple: \$233.00 pp  
 Quad: \$206.50 pp

### THREE NIGHT PACKAGE

Thursday through Sunday  
*Accommodations for 3 nights, 3 dinners, 2 lunches and 1 brunch*  
 Single: \$670.00 pp  
 Double: \$431.50 pp  
 Triple: \$352.00 pp  
 Quad: \$318.25 pp

### FOUR NIGHT PACKAGE:

Wednesday through Sunday  
*Accommodations for 4 nights, 4 dinners, 2 lunches and 1 brunch*  
 Single: \$865.00 pp  
 Double: \$547.00 pp  
 Triple: \$441.00 pp  
 Quad: \$388.00 pp



# Enjoy An Extraordinary Advent

EMILY GUILHERME, NATIONAL REGENT



Dear Catholic  
Daughters  
of New York,

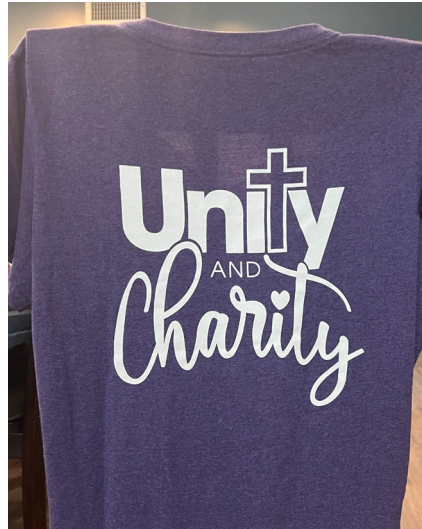
It seems like  
the weeks keep  
speeding by – we  
have entered the  
season of Advent  
and will be

preparing for Christmas. Like Mary, we  
await the coming of Jesus Christ into our  
lives. May we join with our Blessed  
Mother to anticipate Christ's arrival and  
may we fall deeply in love with Him and  
reflect His love to everyone we encounter.

Advent is the season of great  
preparation in our lives; not just for  
holiday parties and wrapping presents for  
our loved ones, but to clean out the  
things in our hearts that separate us from  
God. Take this time to reflect on what bad  
habits we need to break, or the people we  
should seek reconciliation with. Don't let  
this Advent be a "typical, normal"  
Advent. Make it extraordinary by letting  
the Holy Spirit fill you. Then, the peace  
and love of Jesus Christ will overflow in  
you and on to everyone else in your love.

I wish all of you and your families a  
wonderful and truly blessed Advent and  
Christmas, as well as God's many blessing  
for you in the New Year.

With love and gratitude in His grace,  
Emily



## Tree's Tees Has New Shirts! 2 new designs for the New Year

The gold shirt is a super-soft, crew neck, unisex t-shirt with the CDA logo on the front left chest and the new National Theme on the full back. They run pretty much true to size.

The heathered purple shirt is a women's cut, v-neck, t-shirt with the CDA logo on the front left chest and a unique Unity & Charity design on the full back. They are tapered through the mid-section and therefore run small; we suggest ordering at least one size larger than you usually wear.

Sizes small through extra-large are \$20 each. XXL through 4XL are \$23. Please add \$10 for shipping of 3 or less shirts; \$20 for up to ten shirts; \$30 for 20 shirts.

Checks made payable to *Theresa Duran* and sent to her at 31 Triangle Place, Freeport, NY 11520.

*This is currently not a NY State endeavor and not sold in the NY State store however a portion of the profits from the sale of these shirts will be donated to the NY State Court. Please reach out to Theresa with any questions.*



# Traditions

CONNIE BREINDEL, FIRST VICE STATE REGENT

Going into the holiday season we look forward to getting together with family and friends. With the past few unsettling years, it is time to get back to traditions. The gathering of the family for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's. Growing up, my family had the tradition of celebrating Thanksgiving dinner on the Sunday before the holiday because shotgun season typically started the very next day; pork and sauerkraut dinner was always our German tradition on New Year's Day. Since my dad is gone, we no longer have pork and sauerkraut (it wasn't everyone's favorite) but still try to get together.

For Thanksgiving, my brother Dave hosts and makes the turkeys with everyone else bringing the sides the weekend after the holiday. So, when everyone is done with the leftovers, we just start the feast. We have a tradition with the sides that are brought and who brings them too. Because of the pandemic the last couple of years it was just my brothers and their wives not the whole family. This year we are back to the traditional family including their children & families. I cannot wait for to all being together and seeing how the little ones have grown.

We have traditions too in the Catholic Daughters on all levels. The robes that the officer's wear is one tradition that we have had for many years; we did get away from the mortarboard hats when women no longer were required to cover their heads at mass. Look at the conventions, they are pretty much set the same way with the liturgies. We start with the opening mass, Friday is

dedicated to either God & Country or remembering past members, and the Installation Mass on Saturday. There is also fun night on Friday and the banquet on Saturday

And I am sure courts are doing events annually whether it is fundraising or service project, that could be considered a tradition too.

With the Pray & Plays that the State ran these past two years, we may have started a new tradition. Only time will tell. Our Diocesan Memorial Masses sponsored by the Past Regent's Chapters and local court anniversary celebrations are also traditions. All courts, no matter how long they have been around, could start a new tradition.

There is peace with traditions because it brings us stability whether in our courts or our families. We find comfort and joy with traditions. They are safe and something you come to expect. Traditions are needed in our courts. What if the courts had no traditions with everything changes? That would be chaotic, having to reinvent the "wheel" all the time. There is no comfort if we did things without thought to tradition.

Traditions are around for a reason, they work. Now don't get me wrong, changes here and there are necessary, but the foundation of the occasion is based on tradition. We should always look at the traditions established in our courts and be thankful to those that established the traditions.

As we celebrate our court anniversaries, conventions, memorial masses, and events honor those past members by keeping with tradition.

## GET READY FOR A FIESTA!

**The stars are aligning perfectly! Friday night of convention is always Fun Night and this time around it falls on Cinco de Mayo! Don your best sombrero, serape, or mariachi outfit and get ready to enjoy a Mexican Buffet and dance the night away with all your amigos.**





# Seeds

TINA BIGELOW, SECOND VICE STATE REGENT

The Holy Spirit spread his Many Gifts like a wildfire through works of the State Board this summer as we tilled the soil so that seeds could be planted into the hearts of our Sisters. Did your seeds get planted? Will these seeds go dormant or germinate?

According to **Merriam-Webster**, *dormancy* is: the state in which a seed is unable to germinate, even under ideal growing conditions; *germination* is: beginning to grow.

Following the theme of our Training, I decided to write about planting seeds. To do this with a little bit of color, I found an article by **Robert Pavlis** about what happens when seeds germinate or go dormant. This gave me a wealth of information and a whole new understanding as to what Jesus meant in his parable about the sower.

Since dormancy can be broken only by ideal growing conditions, seeds tend to germinate when they are the most likely to flourish. For a seed to germinate, survive and grow, it has to adapt to its environment. All seeds have to land on the ground, be watered and get the light. Every seed has its own reason for dormancy and the trick is to figure out what causes it. Understanding the reasons for dormancy will help you understand the methods to overcome it. (Think seeds=members.)

Once you start watering, never let the seed dry out or it will die. There may not be immediate external evidence of germination, many times the internal process has begun but may be hidden for a time, even years.

**Immature Seeds.** In many cases a seed may look ripe on the outside, but not be fully developed on the inside. Be patient with this type of seed as it needs more time to complete its maturity.

**Chemicals.** Fruit seeds are covered with a chemical inhibitor that prevents germination, the seed needs to be soaked or washed in order to grow and spread fruit.

**Hard Seed Coat.** Walnuts have a hard outer shell that prevents water from being absorbed. The abrasion of soil and rocks need to wear a hole in the shell so that water can reach the seed. (Like a facial scrub to rid the dead skin and rejuvenate the good skin). Other seeds require a very hot water bath for 24 hours. (Like going into a sauna or hot tub to relax your hard-worked muscles.)

**Internal Chemical Inhibitors.** Some mother plants add a chemical inhibitor to the seed. Over time this decreases so that germination can take place. (Truly an example of what our mothers do to preserve innocence. We hated it as a child, but thank her many times later.)

**Temperature.** Some seeds germinate in the fall, stay under ground to be protected and then start to grow in the spring, other seeds require an extended period of warm weather, then a cold weather, then another warm period to finally trigger germination. (Maybe those hot-flashes have a purpose after all.)

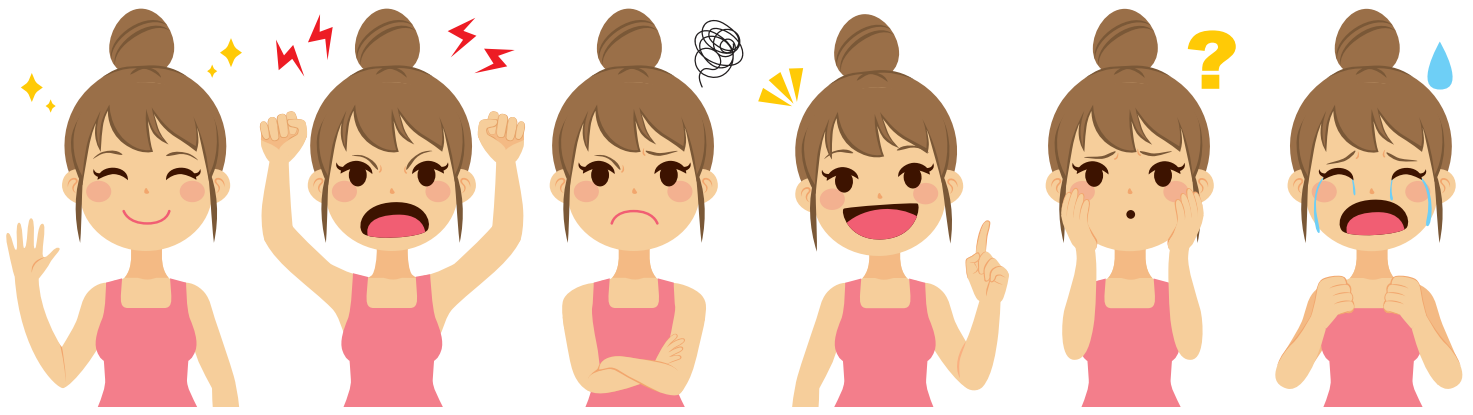
**Light.** Seeds require light to grow, each one requires a different amount. Some seeds get planted so deep into the ground, that it prevents them from germinating – there is not enough light. They stay dormant, until their soil is disturbed to bring them to the surface where there is enough light. There are also seeds that need to remain in the dark in order to germinate because if they receive too much light they will stay dormant.

**Fire.** Some seeds are so tightly enclosed in a cone that they can't germinate or receive any water until the cone opens when exposed to fire, extreme heat, or smoke, releasing their seeds to germinate. (God inspired Moses to by planting His Seed through the Burning Bush.)

I leave you with the message that Jesus said to his apostles when they asked him why he told this parable of the sower. Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: *When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.* (Matt. 13: 18-21)

Enjoy the winter and the holiday celebrations, but keep your seeds watered so that when it is your time to germinate, they will grow a field of beautiful flowers.





# It's Not Always What We Say, It's How We Say It

## Is your face telling a different story?

HELENE SHEPARD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEADERSHIP

As I begin writing my article for the Rising Dawn, while preparing for this joyous season of Christmas, two important words come to my mind: Awareness and Communication.

Awareness both of self and others. As Catholic Daughters we need to be aware of how we conduct ourselves with others at various activities. We need to be aware of what we are saying and what messages we are communicating to them through verbal and nonverbal

communication. Verbal, we understand. But we do have to be aware of our tone. However, nonverbal, meaning a facial expression, a gesture, eye contact also sends messages.

We must be aware of the sensitivity of others. Some times, it is not what we say but it is how we say it to others that is hurtful. We certainly want to avoid hurting others. Therefore, we need to be aware of when and where we should speak. So, in the hustle and bustle of the season - Think before

you speak. When you do speak be sure you do so in a positive manner, with true compassion and understanding for the other person. Remember, it is the season of joy.

In conclusion, let the love and joy of the Lord that is in your heart, speak volumes to everyone you meet because of your awareness of self and others and communicating with them in His love.

In the words of Maya Angelou, "People will forget what you said and what you did, but they will never forget how you made them feel."

## Are You Called?

Some of the most important business to be handled at the State Convention is the election of new State Officers. Members interested in running for a position on the State Board should refer to the Bylaws for information and instructions.

A letter of endorsement by the Local Court of the candidate must be voted on at a court meeting and signed by a majority of the court officers.

The State Nominating Committee shall consider the qualifications of all candidates and must be involved in the selection of the slate even if there is only one candidate for each office.

If you feel called, please send 5 copies of your resume, a current photo, letter of endorsement from your local court and a letter of intent to serve which states what office you are seeking to: Nominating Committee Chairman **Karen Rave**, 1711 Little Britain Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575, **before** February 1, 2023.

**“A LIFE OF  
SIGNIFICANCE IS  
ABOUT SERVING  
THOSE WHO  
NEED YOUR  
GIFTS, YOUR  
LEADERSHIP,  
YOUR PURPOSE.”  
- KEVIN HALL**



# AROUND THE STATE



## JCDA Holds Book & Stuffed Animal Drive

JCDA Court St Aidan # 1577, Williston Park recently had a new book and new stuffed animal drive at the parish. It was the first time the girls held this event and it was a success. Over 50 books and over 30 stuffed animals were donated. Members Rebecca, Hailey, Catherine and Grace delivered the items to Cohen's Children's Hospital – they hope to bring some joy to the children who are there.



## Juniors Help Out At Tricky Tray Event

Court Rita #264, Cornwall, held a Tricky Tray recently and the Juniors were an indispensable help. The girls attended and helped out with tickets, food, distributing baskets and more.



## Court Patricia #195 Holds Baby Shower

The members of Court Patricia #195, Newburgh, held a Baby Shower on November 9, 2022. Some members crocheted gorgeous outfits and blankets. Many members brought diapers, wipes, ointments, baby clothing and other presents.

The items were donated to the Vincent DePaul Society which then gives them to new mothers. The St. Vincent DePaul Society that supports underprivileged people.

If supplies permit, they also give items to toddlers. They try to get a complete layette set for each new mother that utilizes their services.

The members of Court Patricia #195 were very generous and happy to help the mothers and their new babies.

Please submit stories and photos by Feb 1st for our March issue. Submit to [tduran@optonline.net](mailto:tduran@optonline.net) to share your story with the state! Let us know about successful fundraisers, impactful events and community involvement.



# Present In Communion

LUCILLE KOCH, STATE CHAIRMAN OF SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

It is almost the end of the year, and as happens to many of us, thoughts of Thanksgiving and Christmas memories begin to drift through my mind as the winter chill arrives and the inevitable store ads appear on the television. Last week, I began to reminisce about the season we are now in and about the many people who gave me wonderful memories. Then it happened.

The call came in the early evening from a mutual good friend who told me that my dearest best friend of 51 years, Mira Martincich, had a massive stroke and was gone. Of course I couldn't believe it. We had just spoken on Sunday and she was fine. How could this be so? How could this be true? Any and all who knew her are devastated by this loss.

Faith comforts me. At the funeral Mass, during the consecration, I recalled a chapter in the **7 Secrets of the Eucharist** by **Vinny Flynn**, "Only Christ is present sacramentally under the appearance of bread and wine, but He is not alone. The Father and the Holy Spirit and all of heaven are present with Him." If I believe this, truly believe this, then my friend, my deceased family members, all of Heaven are present at Communion. As Mr. Flynn explained in his audio version of his book, *Jesus is a King and His Kingdom* is always with Him, so if He is present, so too are all the citizens of His Kingdom.

**This is our faith** and our comfort. This Christmas may be a trying time for many of us. But we are comforted by our faith and by those around us. Give your family and friends hugs and kisses this Christmas. Call those with whom you have not spoke in a while. Remember the neighbor down the street who lives alone and hasn't had a visitor in ages. Donate a toy. Most importantly, when you go to Mass recall that your deceased loved ones are as close to you as ever though they be in the Heavenly Kingdom.

May this Christmas bring you new insight into the presence of Jesus and of Heaven on earth during Communion. Wishing you and yours a Blessed Christmas. Viva Christo Rey!

Aside: please send in your Circle of Love Spiritual Enhancement forms to me. I am looking forward to reading them, especially this year, as they bring me joy in knowing of your faith and strength. God bless.

# Mary Chose LIFE

EILEEN PETERSON, STATE CHAIRMAN OF LEGISLATION

In a humble dwelling, amongst the animals, our Lord and Savior came as an infant child with our Blessed Mother Mary and St. Joseph saying **yes** to God's will.

King Herod wanted to kill the baby Jesus so he ordered the slaughter of all male babies two years and under. We remember this on December 28th The Feast of the Holy Innocents. There is a beautiful song that tells this story, it's called **Coventry Carol**. I urge you to listen to it if you get a chance.

In New York State, our Governor, Kathy Hochul, promotes the destruction of human LIFE in the womb and is advertising our state as a tourist attraction for the abortion industry.

Our best response is to pray for her conversion to LIFE and for our elected officials to protect God's creation from the moment of birth until natural death. Prayers matter! As Catholic Daughters of the Americas we know that **nothing is impossible with God!**

On November 16, 2022, the United States Senate voted 62-37 to advance the so called Respect for Marriage Act. In response, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Freedom said: "**The act does not strike a balance that appropriately respects our nation's commitment to the fundamental right of religious liberty.**"

Please pray for the sacrament of Marriage and pray to Our Lady of America for our beloved country.



# It's Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas (& the 2023 Education Contest)

MARY WESTERMANN, OSF, STATE EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

As the leaves are falling from the trees and the weather is getting colder (it was 31 degrees at my house this morning), our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving and Christmas and all the traditions we enjoy with our family and friends. Whether we enjoy the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade; binge watching Christmas movies on the Hallmark Channel (and several other channels now); traveling to New York City to see the Rockettes' Christmas show, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Rockefeller Christmas tree and all the decorated store windows; attending our (grand)children's Christmas concerts; sending out Christmas cards; baking cookies and other treats or going to Midnight Mass at our parish Church, we all have traditions we love from year to year. I spent some time researching traditions that are loved by people in other countries and thought I would share a few of the more unusual ones in this article. I doubt I will be adding any to my family's traditions, but I did find these five to be the most fascinating:

- 1) In Japan where only 1% of the population is Christian, families celebrate Christmas by heading out to Kentucky Fried Chicken. The tradition began in 1974 when KFC held a wildly successful marketing campaign (translated as "KENTUCKY FOR CHRISTMAS"). People place their orders months in advance to avoid standing in line for two hours or more.
- 2) According to Norwegian folklore, witches and evil spirits come out on Christmas Eve for mischief. Families hide their brooms to stop them from being stolen for a midnight ride. Sometimes they even burn spruce logs in their fireplace to stop the witches and evil spirits from coming down the chimney.
- 3) On Christmas Day in the Czech Republic, unmarried women throw a shoe over their shoulders towards the front door of their home. If the shoe lands with its toe toward the door, the woman will get married the following year. However, if the heel points toward the door, she will remain single.
- 4) In Caracas, Venezuela, the residents head to Mass on Christmas morning on roller skates. The tradition is so popular the city's streets are closed to traffic so people can skate to Church safely.

5) Swedish Christmases are planned around an unusual television special. In the afternoon, people gather around to watch Donald Duck cartoons. This dates back to the 1960s when televisions were new in Sweden and played only two channels (one of which played Disney cartoons). One of the most popular cartoons is a 1958 one translated as "Donald Duck and his friends wish you a Merry Christmas".

Speaking of traditions, the **National Education Contest** is one that has been a part of our **Circle of Love** for many, many years. I would like to thank our Worthy NYS Regent, Theresa Duran for publicizing the 2023 Education Contest (and including all the appropriate information and forms) in her recent email to all local Court Regents. As you know, we had one (1) winner at the National level last year and I would love for New York State to have even more National winners next year. This year's themes are ***We walk by faith, not by sight— 2 Corinthians: 5:7 OR When do I have to lean on my faith more than sight?*** As always, I will be looking forward to each and every entry I do receive.

In case you haven't had a chance to print out the forms from Theresa's note, the information for the 2023 contest may be found at [catholicdaughters.org](http://catholicdaughters.org); scroll to the CIRCLE OF LOVE section; click on EDUCATION and then scroll down to National Education Contest 2022-2023. Please feel free to contact me ([mewoll@aol.com](mailto:mewoll@aol.com) or 845-297-5250) if you have any questions. God bless all of you with a healthy and happy Christmas.

**CONTEST DEADLINE:** NYS Court Deadline is March 1, 2023. Any entries postmarked after March 1 will (reluctantly) have to be disqualified. Send only your 1st Place Winner in each category, complete with 2023 Entry Form to **Mary Westermann 36 Monroe Drive Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-6019**.

**AWARDS:** Winning entries at the New York State level will be forwarded to the National Education Contest Chairperson, Darlene Moritz. Awards at the local level will be determined by the local Court. Winning entry awards at the State Level are First: \$50 Second: \$25 Third: \$15. National Prizes for each Division are: First: \$100.00 Second: \$50.00 Third: \$25.00



# No Time To Hibernate

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

Hibernate, according to Webster dictionary is to “pass winter in an inactive dormant, sleep-like state.” I thought that after all of the traveling we State Officers have done this summer – Anniversaries, Pray & Play weekends, Memorial Masses, New Court Installations, officer training – that I would do that. But only after a few short weeks I found it was too boring. I really miss my sisters and being with everyone. We really have a beautiful State and many wonderful Catholic sisters!

As we all get ready for the Christmas Season, Our Saviors Birth and New Year, we as Catholic Daughters really cannot go into hibernation. We need to keep

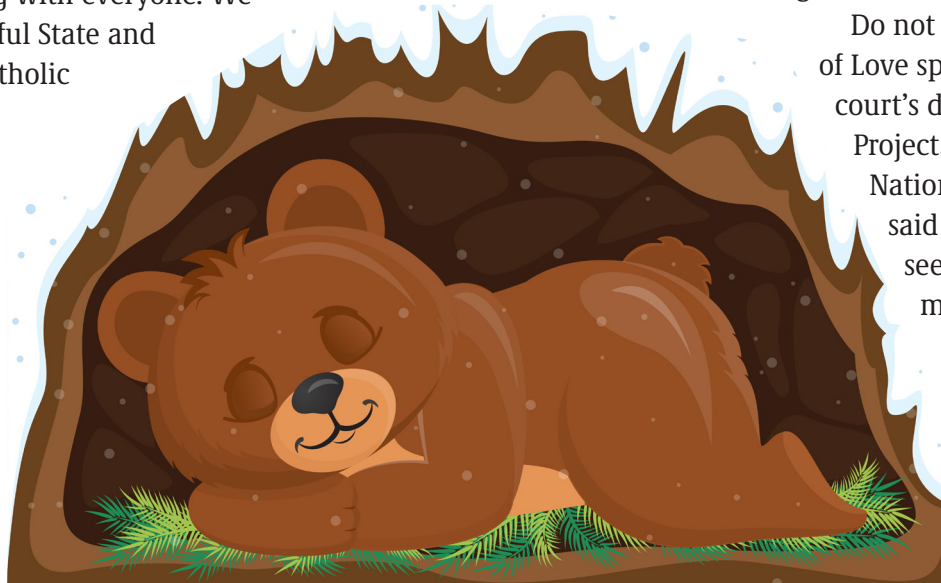
moving forward, bring in new members, keep our Unity going strong and grow with our charities. Before we know it, the sunsets will start getting longer again.

We all need to start planning to come to the State Convention in Saratoga Springs. Do you plan to come?

Have you thought about stepping up and volunteering to become a chairwoman or a DD? As I have said before, **we never know the power we have by saying yes!** Please don't wait to be asked, step up and let the State Board know you are interested. Many hands make light work!

Do not forget about the Circle of Love spokes, and send in your court's donations for National Projects and Charities. As our National Regent Emily has said “Faith of a mustard seed, can move mountains.”

My family and I wish all of you and your families a Merry Christmas, and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



## Be An Example For All Youth

KATHY KNOTT STATE CHAIRMAN OF YOUTH/JCDA

For this Liturgical Year, which began in December, Pope Francis has launched a path for the Church to **Journey Together: in Fellowship, Participation and Mission.** Our Pope has especially challenged young people to follow the footsteps of Our Lady, going in haste to others and dedicating our lives to Jesus. Just like Mary traveled in haste to see her cousin, not only to share her good news but to offer help and love, let us try to make that our path on a simple daily basis.

Young people are growing up in a vastly different world than many of

us grew up in. This generation of teens and young adults has never experienced a world without war, violence, and plague. They have become accustomed to living in fear of some public places and being suspicious of people they don't even know. Even their entertainment is focused on extreme tragedy, violence and killing off undesirables.

Now, we are asking you to stop in your tracks, pause and look at the lives we are leading and make some changes, little as they may be, to your routines. As adults, we hope to serve as joyful model Christian

women for our young people to follow. Try to show that living in fear is not our only option

Beginning today, by searching for little opportunities to do a random act of kindness, we can show each other and most especially our youth how to treat members of the family of God. Any little improvement will make the world a better place for us all.

We hope to be the missionaries of today, leading the next generation to more fulfilling, passionate lives of success and joy.

# What's In A Name?

Johanine, Nilan, Margaret Mary, Genevieve Walsh...where do some of our NY State Court names come from? A member brought this question, so I decided to find out! I asked a few members to tell us a bit about their court's name and history. I hope you find this as interesting as I do.

## Court Peré Le Moyne #833

JUDY STERLING, STATE TREASURER

**Court Peré Le Moyne #833 in Fulton**, originally named Court Fulton, was organized in November 1923. In the mid 1950's our Court Chaplin, **Rev. Msgr. Eugene M. Yennock** replied to National Office's request that our court name be changed to that of a saint. Msgr. Yennock and the ladies of the court settled on **Peré Le Moyne** in honor of the French Jesuit missionary from Canada.

**Father Simon Le Moyne, S.J.**, traveled with explorer Samuel De Champlain; Peré is the French address for a priest. In 1653, LeMoyne led a party down from Canada to explore the area and waterways to the south. In 1654, he was first white man to see the fishing village of Oswego Falls (now named Fulton). Legend has it that he was carried, canoe and all, around the portage (about a mile and a half by his Indian followers. His mission was to carry Christianity to the Indians. Buildings around the county have murals of Peré Le Moyne holding a cross on the river bank with his followers. Our Court's mission to this day is still to carry on charity to all.

## Court #2438, St. Frances Cabrini, Coram

SYLVIA MURDOLO, REGENT

Court St. Frances Cabrini #2438, Coram, located on Long Island was named for the Patroness of our Parish. St. Frances Cabrini is the patroness of immigrants and was a devotee to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was born in 1850 and died December 22, 1917 at 67 years old. Her full religious name is **Frances Xavier Cabrini** because she wanted to be a great missionary like **St. Francis Xavier**. To support that, Frances founded the **Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** in November 1880. Her aim was missionary work in the Far East; however in 1887, when she asked **Pope Leo XIII** to travel there, his response was "Not to the East, but to the West."

When she arrived in NYC, **Archbishop Corrigan** was not supportive and advised Cabrini to take her sisters and go back to Italy. But Frances was persistent – she was on a

mission to catechize the Italian immigrants and care for orphans. Soon many schools and orphanages were founded by this determined little Italian lady.

Her greatest fear was traveling by ship, but she overcame that by taking 67 voyages, founding hospitals, schools, and orphanages – from New York to Chicago, Seattle, New Orleans, Denver, Los Angeles, Philadelphia – she even made international trips. She was naturalized as a US citizen in 1909. She was canonized in 1946 and our parish took her name when it was founded in 1953.

On her feast day (November 13th) our court honors our Patroness with flowers at her statue and offering her first class relic for the parishioners to venerate. Mother Cabrini inspires me not to give up in light of opposition. As a Court we follow the Lord's lead in all things and pray to Mother Cabrini to have the courage to go forward.

## Court Dr. Tom Dooley #2183, Lake Placid

EMMA LOU SMITH, PAST STATE OFFICER

**Tom Dooley** was born on January 17, 1927 in St. Louis, MO, to an Irish-American family. He received a Catholic education in elementary and high school and five semesters at the University of Notre Dame. After a brief stint in the Navy, he entered St. Louis University School of Medicine. Upon graduation he returned to the Navy as a hospital corpsman. In 1954 Dr. Tom was assigned to the USS Montague and ended up in Vietnam.

Most of his remaining years were spent in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. During this controversial time in our nation, Dr. Tom Dooley became widely known for his humanitarian efforts and anti-communist political activities. The American people learned about these years through his letters to his mother as she shared them with the American press. In addition, his first book, **Deliver Us From Evil**, elaborated on his anti-communist activities and humanitarianism which resulted in an increase in his popularity. His account, although elaborated on and exaggerated, incited the anti-Vietnam sentiments in our nation.

Illness and a bout with cancer shortened his life at 34 years of age on January 18, 1961.

When our court was instituted, a member and the Pastor at the time researched several saints for a court name. The names were submitted to the Court for consideration. The Court voted to propose Dr. Tom Dooley as the court name and National agreed.



# NATIONAL NEWS MARCH FOR LIFE 2023

Even with the wonderful blessing of Roe v. Wade being overturned, which allows more freedom at the state level to enact pro-life laws, the necessary work to build a culture of life in the United States of America is not finished. Rather, it is focused differently.

**The Annual March for Life** will be held Friday, January 20, 2023, in Washington, DC. There is a concert on the National Mall at 11 am, the rally begins at 12pm on the National Mall and at approximately 1pm the march heads up Constitution Ave. to the Supreme Court and Capitol Buildings.

The Catholic Daughters and their families will meet at the National Museum of Natural History, the intersection of 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, in Washington, DC. We will join the March as the participants are walking by. We will have our Catholic Daughters of the Americas banner with us. This is a wonderful way to display our Unity as we March for justice for the unborn.

# The Protocol of Love

CHARILLA S. CONNER,  
STATE CHAIRMAN OF PROTOCOL

You've invited someone from the Mass you attend to come to a CDA meeting. You're excited for your Mass friend to come meet your CDA sisters. You've saved them a seat, you're watching the door. There she is, looking bit apprehensive. Now what?

You follow protocol or etiquette to greet your friend, "Welcome, come here, I've saved us some seats."

You introduce your friend to those around you. As the warm, welcoming group we are, they welcome her. There's the meeting then social time. You stick with her, help her feel like a part of the organization so she'll want to join. You've done it, another member because YOU knew the protocol, the etiquette, of how to include another.

Then there's the protocol of being a Christian. As we know, it's all about the Love. The love God has for us, the love Jesus asks of us to share in our lives, love of the Holy Spirit for all of us. Joseph followed the Angel's message, followed the love and took Mary as his wife; they raised Jesus by the protocol, the etiquette, of their faith. Such a comfort to know what the right things are and have the faith to follow the Love. What if you're the wife of the innkeeper? How do you welcome this couple as they prepare for Jesus' birth? Is it part of the protocol to help this marginalized couple or do you realize what's really right to assist in some small way? Food, hot water, blankets, the protocol of love guides you.

You share what you can this Advent, but God wants you to know and feel his love as we prepare to welcome our Lord at his birth. This Advent season, may you be able to feel the comfort of knowing and participating in the celebrations of the Christmas season.

Joyeux Noël. Feliz Navidad. Nollaig Shona. Wesołych Świąt. Nadolig Llawen. Felicem Natalem Christi.



## Mission Statement of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

The purposes of the organization are to participate in the religious, charitable and educational Apostolates of the Church. Catholic Daughters of the Americas engages in creative and spiritual programs which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents in meaningful ways that positively influence the welfare of the Church and all people throughout the world.

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.

# A Gift! A What? Not A What! A Gift!

CHRISTINA R. PACKWOOD, STATE CHAIRMAN OF QUALITY OF LIFE

Back in the 1920's when my mom was a little girl, she wrote a story called "The Copper Penny". This penny kept rolling around in life collecting many thoughts about people and life. It became a Christmastime story for us. We all loved to listen while mom read her story and, she said, her sisters and brother did too. I loved to hear about the small copper penny and how it became so important to the people who claimed it or found it.

My mom is now 97 and holding (as she says); she just broke her hip and is in rehab going to the gym (as she calls OT & PT). She is doing well and wants to be home for Christmas. Our visits with her are still very rewarding, we talk about life and her life experiences and our relatives...many I know, so many I never knew. There are six siblings in my family and

when we all meet up for the holidays there are many stories to be told. Mom listens and shares many memories with us, some are so funny, others make us sad but that goes with our stories too. We are so fortunate to have these precious times together.

My Christmas memories are precious too. A time of the year filled to the top of the stocking with sharing, decision making, shopping, baking, cooking, decorating, celebrating, and, above all, showing God's mercy. We had Thanksgiving, next St. Nicholas, then the main focus of our Advent – getting ready for Midnight Mass: choir singing, the Christ Child in the manger, not falling asleep during Mass and then lot's of meeting and greeting because everyone knew everyone.

When we left Mass to go home our excitement grew, for we knew Santa would leave us one gift to open before bed. Mom and Mim always had a small meal ready – meat pie, soup and one cookie each. The music played, we opened

our gift and off to bed before the frenzy of six kids on Christmas morning. The day was unreal for us, Mom would start singing in French with her sisters and Mim, Dad and Pip would get the stoves fired up; by noon we had a feast waiting with many families and friends. It was a wonderful time and everyone was so full of hope.

Mom and I keep talking about these good times and she said as long as we never forget to let the children know the true meaning of these times is Jesus. I said Amen. This truth is a quality of life, we wish all could have, but we all know our world is in trouble, so much has changed.

The days ahead are days to be shared by all Catholic Daughters, share your talents, kindness, love, and joy. Many will suffer throughout this season for lack of mercy, so if you can help a friend, a neighbor, your community, the local soup kitchens, nursing homes; take someone shopping, read stories at your library, make crafts to share, prepare gift bags for families or veterans; give a homemade card that says you care, make cookies, donate food and gift cards. There are things to do, and you are the helper.

Remember Jesus is the **Real Gift**. Share Him and the Holy Family with all you meet this Season of Joy, so someone can enjoy even a moment of true Love in their life. Share God's Mercy, have a **Merry Christmas** and a **Joyous New Year**...don't forget the Epiphany is right around the corner.



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"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" –Martin Luther King, Jr.



# Christmas: A Time For Charities (& Projects)

ANNA LUCIA, STATE CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL PROJECTS

Greetings from Dannemora on a balmy, 24 degree, snowy morning, less than a week before Thanksgiving! A week ago we did not need a coat. I love this North Country! Despite all the craziness of the world, all the sicknesses about, we have so much to be grateful for, and need to keep so many less fortunate in prayer.

As with other weather disasters, donations have been coming in for Hurricane Ian relief and, once again, even a few from private citizens, for which we are very grateful. **Thank You** to all who have been able to contribute for the benefit of others.

This might be a good time to remind all officers and members that the monies you have in your Treasury should not be allowed to accumulate – we are a non-profit organization and we should be donating up to 3/4 of our treasury to charity. I think that is a fact that some Courts are now aware of! I realize there are courts that operate on a shoestring – that is a totally different situation – but courts that hold on to their money rather than donating to the worthy causes out there, might need to reassess. Just food for thought!

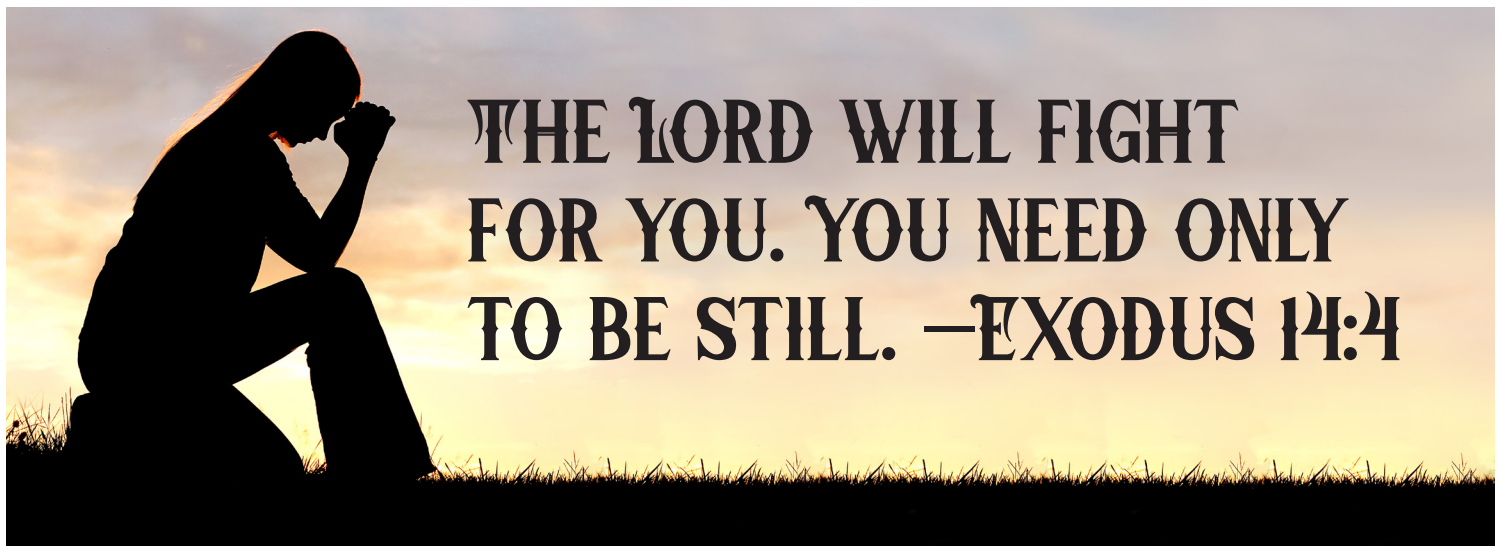
We are getting close to the new year and in early May we have the NYS Convention in Saratoga Springs. April 7, 2023 is the cutoff to get your National Project and Charities donations to me, in order to have your Court credited at the State Convention, so be aware, please. I know it may seem early, but there is a lengthy process before the checks actually get totally processed: I receive them, and process them (if they are made out correctly to Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and if



they have TWO signatures, else wise they are returned to you), and if I know there is no question exactly how you want your monies spent (please do not assign it to a project or charity that no longer exists). Then they go to the State Secretary, who records all payments, and then sends them on to the State Treasurer, who records and deposits the checks – so, you see it takes a bit of time for this system, but it does insure the accuracy of funds.

If you are in doubt as to what the Projects and Charities are, refer to the National web site: **[catholicdaughters.org](http://catholicdaughters.org)**. I realize some do not have computer access, feel free to call me at **518-492-7246**.

As we travel through Advent and the blessed season of the celebration of the humanity of Jesus, may you all have a truly wonderful healthy, holy, happy season with your family and friends and pray for and think of those less fortunate. God bless you all. Merry Christmas and the best of 2023 to all!



**THE LORD WILL FIGHT  
FOR YOU. YOU NEED ONLY  
TO BE STILL. —EXODUS 14:4**

*May the Peace of Christ be with you and your families  
this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.*

*Thank you for your commitment to the  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas.*

*Fr. Ralph, Theresa, Connie, Tina, Patti, & Judy*



## Rising Dawn Subscriptions

In our continuing efforts to save both money and trees, we continue to seek those who would be interested in receiving *The Rising Dawn* via email as opposed to in their mailbox.

An electronic version is not only more economical and environmentally friendly, it also means you receive the issue at least one week earlier than the mailed version since printing, stuffing and delivery takes time.

While only one printed version is sent to each court unless they purchase additional subscriptions, the email version can be sent to any and all members of CDA in NYS. An electronic version is also posted on the website at [cdanys.org](http://cdanys.org).

Please send your request to **Theresa Duran** at [tduran@optonline.net](mailto:tduran@optonline.net) and you will be added to the email version subscription.

To receive additional printed subscriptions to **The Rising Dawn**, please send \$10 (checks made payable to Catholic Daughters of the Americas) to Theresa at 31 Triangle Pl., Freeport, NY 11520

## Important Dates

Dec 8th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Dec 12th	Feast of Our Lady Of Guadalupe Birthday of State Treasurer Judy Sterling
Dec 25th	Birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ
Dec 31st	New Year's Eve
Jan 1st	Feast of the Solemnity of Mary
Jan 6th	Feast of the Epiphany
Jan 16th	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Jan 20th	March for Life, Washington, DC
Feb 1st	March Rising Dawn articles Due
Feb 14th	St. Valentine's Day
Feb 20th	President's Day
Feb 27th	Birthday of First Vice State Regent Connie Breindel
Mar 1st	Deadline for the Local Education Contest
Mar 30	Delegate Sheets due to State Regent
May 3rd-7th	New York State Convention, Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs, NY