

# THE LONE STAR MESSENGER

Newsletter of the Texas State Court  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
September 2008 Edition



## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE REGENT

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

What a summer it has been filled with many CDA activities. It has been hot and dry for many of us, but Texas CDA blooms like a fresh flower in the spring.

With the election of new court officers, Officers' Training Workshops started June 14<sup>th</sup> and continue every weekend until the end of September. Many of the officers did not attend a workshop, and this is not good. There were different presentations from two years ago, and the training is vital to carry out the duties of each office. Not a single one of us knows it all. We can all learn new things.

Ladies, we must reflect why we are Catholic Daughters. It has nothing to do with any one individual you know physically. You were called by your Creator to know, love, and serve Him. As a Catholic Daughter you have committed yourself to do His work. Remember next time when you do not have the time to fulfill your duties as a CDA member or cannot attend a multi-district meeting or workshop, you have said, "Lord I do not have the time for you."

The State Officers and some 200 plus members and a few spouses attended the 2008 National Convention in Albuquerque, NM. Those who did not attend missed an excellent convention. I cannot say enough about our National Officers. It has been a lot of years since I have seen our National Officers and National CDA Office work as a unified group of women making changes for today's time and listening to the membership requests. Claudia Bosch, Immediate Past National Regent, and Libby Ramirez, National Regent were an awesome pair with which to work. Start saving your dollars for the 2010 National Convention to be held in Buffalo, NY. Let's show Texas that rules as we did in New Mexico. Texas seated 142 delegates.

I am proud of all the Texas membership that I lead. You made the State Regent shine like a bright star. To my State Chairmen I say thank you for your excellent Circle of Love reports. Through your excellent reporting on the COL you gave the members of Texas a well deserved pat on the back for all those service hours and events the courts reported. Out of the seven COL programs Texas brought home awards in five. You will find a complete listing of all awards won at the National Convention in this newsletter.

God bless all of you for the work you do in CDA.

*Carolyn Bachmann*



"Together We Are Strong" Eccl. 4:9

### Texas State Officers 2007-2009

#### Carolyn Bachmann

##### State Regent

19417 FM 172  
Scotland, TX 76379-6500  
940-541-2569  
carolyn1349@msn.com

#### Sheila Martinka

##### First Vice Regent

19220 Space Center Blvd. 1020  
Houston, TX 77058  
713-946-5847  
smartinka@earthlink.net

#### Carolyn Malik

##### Second Vice Regent

P.O. Box 243  
Shiner, TX 77984  
361-594-3170  
cdacarol@sbcglobal.net

#### Peggy Rosales

##### State Secretary

8003 Doe Meadow Dr.  
Austin, TX 78749  
prosales@austin.rr.com

#### Eve Trevino

##### State Treasurer

1102 Delta Drive  
Corpus Christi, TX 77841  
361-814-0123  
evetrevino@yahoo.com

#### Reverend Donald Ruppert

##### State Chaplain

P.O. Box 1325  
East Bernard, TX 77435-1325  
979-335-7551  
FatherRuppertCDA@hughes.net

#### Olga Samaniego

##### Immediate Past State Regent

1801 Billy Casper  
El Paso, TX 79936  
915-593-6653  
olgasamaniego@hotmail.com

#### State Website

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

# **Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court**

## **Mission Statement**

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

## **State Mission Statement**

The members of the Texas State Court love Christ and His Church and are dedicated to leading others to Christ and to His service through the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

## **Goals**

- To encourage and provide opportunities for spiritual growth for all Catholic Daughters through prayer services and retreats.
- To extend a hand to our CDA sisters in their time of sickness, sorrow, or need.
- To encourage courts to be more family oriented in their court activities.
- To complete the Habitat Build in Wichita Falls with support of all Catholic Daughters.
- To select particular project/projects to work with our brother Knights of Columbus.
- To continue to increase membership and seek areas for new courts.
- To continue to develop strong leaders from court members.

## **Activities**

- Utilize our State Spiritual/Retreat Chairman to organize multi-district retreats and/or spiritual talks.
- Encourage districts to come together to pray and interact in local activities.
- Emphasize that we are women of God and must not only show this in our work, but also show this in our actions and words.
- Encourage courts to promote activities that involve the family in Spiritual and recreational activities.
- Complete the Habitat Home Build in Wichita Falls.
- Encourage courts to work with our brother Knights in parish and community activities and other selective areas.
- Spread the word to all Catholic women that CDA is a spiritual/service organization to and for all.
- Continue court incentives for increasing membership.
- Continue the St. Bernadine of Siena Award for Court Development.
- Provide Support and training through the "Out Reach" Program for courts struggling to exist and structure for newly instituted courts.
- Continue leadership and training workshops to develop future CDA leaders.

**THE LONE STAR MESSENGER** is a quarterly publication of the  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court.  
It is published in September, December, March, and June.  
It is also posted on our website.  
[www.texasda.org](http://www.texasda.org)

With each issue, several newsletters are returned as undeliverable.  
Please keep us up to date regarding your address.

Courts or individuals may purchase a subscription to the newsletter for \$7 annually.

**Teresa Maltbia, State Newsletter Editor**

6723 Forest Mews Court  
Houston, TX 77049  
[webadmin@texasda.org](mailto:webadmin@texasda.org)



## *Message from the State Chaplain*

My Dear Catholic Daughters,

When brand new sneakers without any scuff marks begin making an appearance at Sunday Mass, I know that school is about to start and vacation time is nearing an end. Newly elected court officers are gearing up for another year of CDA activities.

Many of us just returned from the National CDA Convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Texas was certainly well represented as we installed our own

Libby Ramirez as the next National Regent. Even though I have attended many National Conventions, I am always excited when I hear the "Circle of Love" reports and realize how much we do to help others through our united efforts. Sharing these accomplishments may well be the best way to recruit new members.

I am looking forward to serving as the National Clergy Consultant for the next two years. National Regent Libby Ramirez has also asked Bishop David Fellhauer, Bishop of Victoria, to serve as National Chaplain. The National Officers and board look forward to an exciting term in office.

CDA is alive and well. Texas is still the leader in establishing new courts. We must constantly work to recruit new members and keep the ones we have. Working together, united in charity, we can accomplish great things.

You will be in my prayers as you prepare for a new year. I congratulate the newly installed officers and extend my best wishes to you and your courts. May God bless you as you work together for the good of the Church. May Mary, the mother of Jesus, guide your decisions so that all you do is in accord with the two great commandments: "Love God above all things, and love your neighbor as yourself."

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Don Ruppert  
State Chaplain

**As a Catholic Daughter, does your light shine?**

***"You are the light of the world...Let your light shine before everyone that they may see your good works, and glorify your Creator which is in Heaven."***

***Matthew 5:14, 16***

**Libby Ramirez  
National Regent**



My dear Sisters in Christ,

The National Convention in Albuquerque is now an unforgettable memory. The ladies of New Mexico did an outstanding job!! Thank you to all the Texas delegation for your part in making this convention such a success. The convention just kept growing and growing. It was wonderful seeing how many ladies and gentlemen came from Texas for support, and, for this, I will always be grateful. Start planning now for the 2010 convention in Buffalo, New York!

We have had only good reports on the workshops, and I was very pleased that the National Board selected our own Olga Samaniego, Carolyn Bachmann and National Director Duchess Collins along with National Second Vice Regent Anne Nelson to present the New Court Development Workshop. I did try to attend a little of each workshop, and this workshop was full when I attended. Thank you, ladies, for your hard work and dedication to CDA. Congratulations to the State Court of Texas for the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Award for Instituting seven New Courts and the 1<sup>st</sup> Place award in recognition for the State with net membership gains. Texas is the largest jurisdiction with the largest number of members and the most courts.

Texas was recognized in five of the Programs: Leadership, Spiritual Enhancement, National Projects, Education, and 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Youth Category IV. Texas CDA members donated \$59,977.39 to the National Charitable Projects in the 2006-2008, which represents the largest amount of CDA Charitable Donations by any state in the nation. It makes me very proud to know that the membership from Texas is working so hard to bring a better life for so many people in need. Please, ladies, keep up the good work.

I am very pleased that our National Chaplain Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer and our National Clergy Consultant Reverend Donald Ruppert have agreed to serve during this term with us. They are both very familiar with CDA because each served as State Chaplain and State Clergy Consultant during my term as State Regent.

As I begin to take on the responsibilities of National Regent, I ask you for your prayers. My role will be different and my responsibilities many, but I am still the same Libby that you have known all these years. Please do not hesitate to invite me to your functions because if I am available, I will attend your events. I look forward to the state-sponsored reception for the National Regent in September in Corpus Christ in conjunction with the Interim Meeting for the National Board.

To the State Board of Texas I say a big **Thank you** for being such a good group with which to work. I have truly enjoyed my visits with you at the Board meetings. Continue to be a united team. Nothing is so big that you and the Lord together cannot solve. Always remember, **“For in Him we live, and move and have our being.” - Acts 17:28.**

**God bless you all and take care of yourselves, my friends!!**



## Quarterly Prayer Intentions

The following are the prayer intentions for the new quarter. Please share them with your courts. The intentions can be remembered in many ways such as in the opening or closing prayer of your meetings, at corporate communions, by your prayer ministry, and hopefully by each individual member in her daily prayers. Jesus tells us in Matthew 21:22 “Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.” Let us place our trust in Him as we lift up the following intentions:

- For the world’s leaders, that they may strive to bring peace and security to all people
- For the physically and the spiritually hungry, that their hearts may be satisfied in God and their bodies cared for and fed through the efforts of those who serve



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### Court Development

#### Sheila Martinka, First Vice State Regent

Dear CDA members,

I hope all of you are keeping cool this summer. As I mentioned in the June newsletter, we instituted a new court on June 28, 2008, Sisters of Pauline, #2605 in Aransas Pass. Please make them feel welcome into our Catholic Daughters of the Americas family! This is another enthusiastic group of ladies ready to practice the CDA motto of Unity and Charity.

We will welcome another group of ladies into Catholic Daughters on September 7, 2008 in the community of Frydek at St. Mary’s parish! I have met with these ladies for an organizational meeting, and they are excited and ready to have Catholic Daughters of the Americas in their parish! We will have a court name and number soon from the National office.

Remember to send any contacts for more courts my way ladies! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

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### Leadership

#### Carolyn Malik, Second Vice State Regent

Wow, what a busy summer it is! State officers are traveling the State of Texas presenting multi-district officer training workshops to the newly elected local court officers. As of this writing, we have conducted eight workshops and have eight remaining to conduct, so August and September are very full months. I want to thank the District Deputies for your wonderful cooperation in organizing the multi-district workshops. The response has been excellent. We welcome your

input about these as well as future workshops in the next term. And thanks to all of you local court officers for your attendance and willingness to learn your job. Remember the saying **“If God leads you to it, He will lead you through it.”**

Current state officers’ lists can be obtained from your local court regent. In the September mailing of the Regents’ Resource Packet, there is a list of the current State officers. **So, regents, please furnish your local court officers and your court chairmen with the list of current officers in order that forms and materials will be sent to the proper person. It is the duty of the regent to share all information and materials she receives with her officers and members. Some State Officers are still receiving chairmen reports on jobs they held four to six years ago.** Regents keep your officers up to date on current news and information.

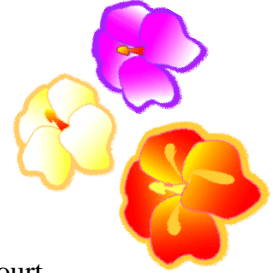




**With Pen in Hand...**  
**Peggy Rosales, State Secretary**

It has been truly wonderful going across the state and meeting the new officers and many of the court members that have attended the Officer Training. Thank you for saying, "Yes," when the call came for you to share your time and talents with your court and with the state. Please keep the Court newsletters coming; I love reading about all the great works you do in your community. **Regents, please pass the following reminders on to your Financial Secretary and Treasurer:**

- Financial Secretaries, it is time to order a court roster from the national office, if you haven't done so. Contact the office at CdofANatl@aol.com. The number of members you will be billed in November is set as of September 30, 2008.
- Please, please make sure that there are two (2) signatures on your court checks!
- Make sure that your Court number (#) is on your Court checks.
- Make Court checks for state dues and assessments payable to: Texas State Court.
- Please remember to pay your National and State dues upon receipt – it does not take a court vote to pay national or state dues. If a court is over 90 days late (from billing date) a \$5 late fee will be assessed to your court for late state dues.



I wish each of you a joyous two years in your positions. Should you need any help or assistance; let us know as we are here to serve you and hopefully make your duties easy and a rewarding experience. I leave you with this quote:

"Now is the only time there is. Make your now wow, your minutes miracles, and your days pay. Your life will have been magnificently lived and invested, and when you die you will have made a difference." -- **Mark Victor Hansen**

**NEWSLETTER SURVEY**

*With the cost of postage, printing and the many problems we have experienced with the Post Office mailings the past two years, we are asking for your help on a survey. Teresa Maltbia, Website Chairman, has a survey that you may go to on the website at [www.texasda.org](http://www.texasda.org) and cast your vote. If all of you who have computers would go to the website and follow the prompts, I would appreciate your vote of yes or no. I am asking those who would read/print the quarterly newsletter off the website to check yes. This would cut cost and delivery problems we continuously encounter with the Post Office. The State has been mailing the newsletter first class mail for two years and still cannot get the letters to you in a timely manner. Please help us out with this as each newsletter that is not mailed saves the state a minimum of 75 cents a newsletter plus the printing cost. Thank you for your help and understanding.*



If you are an outgoing court regent, please pass this newsletter on to the new court regent in addition to any other mail you have received since going out of office. It is important for the present regent to receive all information for the court. If National and State dues were not paid before you left office, please pass on the bill to the new regent. I need a new officers' list for 23 courts which were not sent out by the outgoing regents. Please make sure that your officers' list was sent in to State and National.

## Dollars and Cents

### Eve Trevino, State Treasurer

It was so good to see and work with most of you at the officers' training workshops this past summer. Fall is



now upon us, and I look forward in seeing you at your multi-district meetings, retreats, and/or court anniversaries.

Thank you for your kind invitations and court newsletters. Your newsletters keep me updated as to what your courts are doing and have accomplished. Continue to do good work of unity and charity through out the year. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Here are just a few reminders to make our bookkeeping a little easier. It is best to write your checks immediately after your meeting. This way you can obtain the proper signatures and get the checks in the mail.

Try to spend those funds that are raised in your courts by making charitable donations, preferably within a six-month period, unless you have earmarked the funds for a special project.. This is how we get to keep our 501 (c) (3) non-profit status with IRS.

Ensure that your books, checkbook, and bank statements are totaled and balanced prior to the financial review. This will make for a smooth review.

Thank you again, CDA sisters for all you do.  
God Bless!

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## Membership

### Sheila Martinka, First Vice State Regent

In the last newsletter, I included some information on a skit about “getting aboard the CDA membership train.” I am excited to report that some of you have requested that skit, and if you have not received it yet, it is coming, I promise. This summer has kept me busy, and I am still catching up! This also tells me that you are reading the newsletter and interested in recruiting new members! That is wonderful! Keep in mind the State Membership Contest when recruiting new members. Your court will be recognized at the State Convention and receive \$\$\$ off of your dues!

New members are great and keep us growing, but remember that membership also includes retention. So, how do you keep your current members interested? Are you asking your membership what they would like to do, what direction do they want to see their CDA court to go?

As the new term gets underway, ask your membership for their ideas, their thoughts. Encourage them to take the lead on a project or to “share” the task at hand. Sometimes all they need is to be asked or given a little encouragement. Anna M. Baxter (National Regent 1968-1970) instituted a seven fold program in her term that gave the members opportunities “to exercise their powers of leadership and creative ability.” I challenge all of you to exercise your powers of leadership and creative ability in working together with each other. Teach each other and build that confidence because all of you are not only the future of CDA, but its future leaders!



### Regents' Resource Packet – Carolyn Bachmann

The new Regents' Resource Packet will be coming out in late September, and it is full of information and updates. I am asking the regents to please buy a white three-hole binder to keep the packet intact and available for use in answering most any questions you may have. This packet contains national, state, and local court listings of names and addresses. Information on District Deputies, State Chairmen,

Protocol, Circle of Love reporting forms and much more is included.

By placing this into a binder, it will be easier to pass to the new regent in two years, and the only copying that will need to be done is the updates. With the increasing expense in printing and postage, the state needs to conserve on the waste of printing all the materials every two years when much of it is the same. Texas has not raised membership dues for twelve years, and with the help of all of you in passing on materials and keeping the binder's information intact, it will help to keep the state dues down.

## Memorial Scholarship Report Carolyn Malik, Chairman



Let us not take a vacation from our continuing prayers during the summer months. Our State Chaplain continues to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the year on the First Friday of each month for the intentions of the enrollments sent to me.

**NOTE – NOTE – NOTE** - Our stock of memorial mass cards is getting low. At the beginning of this term, we ordered 20,000 cards, which should have been a sufficient quantity for the 2 year term. However, as I stated, the remaining stock is dwindling and we have one year remaining. The irony is that the receipts for the “sale” of these cards does not equal to the number which I have distributed. For example, 20,000 cards should gross an income of approximately \$50,000. And many courts donate \$3 per card and \$5 per card instead of the suggested donation of \$2.50. As you well know, we awarded \$28,300 in scholarships this past spring. So, this leaves us drastically short of the funds which these cards should have generated. **PAST REGENTS AND PAST LOCAL CHAIRMEN, REGENTS AND CURRENT CHAIRMEN, STATE CHAIRMEN, DISTRICT DEPUTIES** – If you have a supply of cards in your possession that you are **NOT** utilizing, **PLEASE** give these cards to your district

**deputy or return to me for use in areas which need them.** **ALSO, please forward monies to me for cards which you have sold. This revenue is NOT meant for the local courts to keep in their treasury. This is a State project and monies need to be forwarded to me along with the completed enrollment form. I will be contacting courts who have not sent in the enrollment forms for the cards which they requested. District Deputies, in your visits to your local courts, please check with them to ensure that the proper procedures are being followed. Thanks to all for your cooperation in this matter.**

Regents, if you do not have a chairman for the Memorial Scholarship Fund, please appoint one of your members to fill this position. Provide the chairperson with the cards and enrollment forms that she needs. If your court is in need of cards and/or forms, please contact me at cdacarol@sbcglobal.net or 361-594-3170 in Shiner, Texas. Everyone is always in need of more prayers. Cards may be used for various occasions – memorials of deceased relatives and friends, birthdays, get well cards, anniversaries or “just because.”

**“Jesus does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them.”.....**  
*St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus*

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## State Financial Review Chairman Janis Wright

Hi, ladies! Congratulations to the newly installed court officers! I hope you’ve had a chance to attend an officers’ workshop. The State will provide you with the training and information you need to perform your duties.

On June 7, the state officers and the state financial review committee met in Shiner. The state books were reviewed for the period June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008, and the books were found to be in good order. We appreciate the time and effort the state officers put into accurate recordkeeping. Thanks to Christine Moore, Gennie Loggins, Mary Rose Barta, and Judy Evanicky for your hard work at the review.

Congratulations to Libby Ramirez, our new National Regent! We are so proud of you, and we know you will do a super job leading our great nation of Catholic Daughters! We are also proud of Duchess Collins for being re-elected as a National Director! What great representation for Texas!

It’s time again for Regents and District Deputies to schedule the court financial reviews for the period April 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008. The reviews are held in October. Every court must have a financial review, and the District Deputy must be present at all court reviews.

I hope your court has lots of exciting things planned for the upcoming year. I’ll keep you in my prayers and ask you to keep me in yours.



## State Public Relations Chairman

**Terrie Vacek**

936-856-9899 [terriecda@cebridge.net](mailto:terriecda@cebridge.net)

What a privilege it was to cover the National Convention for the state of Texas! Please be sure every local court has an article in the area newspaper. It is critically important to create exposure for CDA by informing the public of WHO we are and most importantly, WHAT the Catholic Daughters DO. Boast that we are a large group of hard working and committed Christian women making a difference throughout our communities and the world with our spiritual, charitable, and educational projects found in the "Circle of Love" program. Exposure is vital to our growth. Local courts should make the move toward monthly CDA media reports using church bulletins, community flyers, local and diocesan newspapers, our state newsletter and/or Share Magazine.

Brag about the Who, What, Where, When and Why of your local court events. A press release is a news story written in third person that seeks to demonstrate to an editor, columnist, or reporter the newsworthiness of a particular person, event, service project, or fundraiser. You may submit your releases either by mail, fax, or e-mail, depending on your target media. Please make sure it is easy to read and edit. Feature Stories (post articles) of Special Events may be long and should contain a more descriptive portrayal of what actually happened. This type of article enables readers to experience the event from your perspective. Use direct quotes to personalize it and submit photos.

Finally, send a copy of all local CDA coverage to Terrie Vacek, 12886 Aries Loop, Willis, TX 77318. Your story will become a part of State Regent Carolyn Bachmann's Two Year Regent's Scrapbook! Have a great year and let's share the good news about CDA!

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## MISSIONS OF MERCY - TEXAS PROJECTS

### Lillian Hansen, Chairmen

979-543-4466, [lilhansen3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lilhansen3@sbcglobal.net)

### Cathy Bittner, Co-Chairman

713-419-7620, [Cathybittner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Cathybittner@sbcglobal.net)

*"We should not serve the poor like they were Jesus. We should serve the poor because they are Jesus." ~ Mother Teresa*

**MISSION STATEMENT: Missions of Mercy seeks out the poor and under served within the State of Texas and assesses each project so that all CDA members have the opportunity of sharing their time, talent and treasure with those who need them most.**

Fall brings many new Regents, and we hope all of you, both new and returning Regents, find this message useful. MOMS is asking that each of you appoint an enthusiastic chairman (maybe yourself?) to get members interested in all the little ways CDA can be of service, not just to the missions listed below, but for your particular local needs, too.

If your court is within driving distance of any of the missions, by all means, it would be a wonderful experience to have members deliver needed items and visit the facilities. If the drive is not possible, and UPS too expensive, maybe the better way would be to have a little fund raiser - yard sale, spaghetti supper, baked potato sale, etc - and send a check to the mission or missions of your choice. The main thing is to make members aware that there are many needy people in Texas, and it's up to us who have so much to help those who do not.

### CAMERON COLONIA

P. O. Box 8093  
Brownsville, TX 78526  
(958-982-2007)  
(Send parcels UPS to  
2215 Rancho Viejo, Brownsville, TX  
78526)

### CASA JUAN DIEGO MISSION

P. O. Box 70113  
Houston, TX 77270  
(713-869-7376)  
(Send parcels UPS to  
4818 Rose St., Houston, TX 77007)

### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE WOMEN'S SHELTER

2727 Harlandale Ave  
Dallas, TX 75216  
Randa Gonzales 972-896-5253  
Jeanne Sokolosky 972-527-8708

### ANNUNCIATION MATERNITY HOME

3610 Shell Road  
Georgetown, TX 78628  
(512-864-7755)

### LA CLINIC GUADALUPANA

801 Ascension Road  
El Paso, TX 79928  
(915-852-3898)

### COVENANT HOUSE

1111 Lovett Blvd  
Houston, TX 77006  
(713-523-2231 ext 282)



**The Navigator**  
**Teresa Maltbia, State Website**  
**Chairperson**  
**webadmin@texasda.org**



I have received many emails on how to start a website. I am compiling a list of frequently asked questions. I will have a page posted on the State site once this is completed.

“Where is our court locator page you talked about last August???” I haven’t forgotten. It is still a work in progress, a large one I might add. It will not have all the courts information at first. I am still hoping that all of our courts in Texas report their information to me. Remember I need the following information. Court name and number, full address of your meeting location, the day and time of your meeting and any pertinent information a visitor might need.

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**National Projects Texas State Court**  
**Ginger Shea, Chairman**  
**ginshea@swbell.net**



Greetings, CDA Sisters. Summer time has passed and we are now entering fall, a beautiful and wonderful time of the year. Our National Convention has also passed, and we now have a very vibrant new National leader ~ Libby Ramirez. Congratulations to Libby and also to all of our courts who support the National and State Charities. It is that time for each court to re-think their contributions to our listed charities. Even though the state of the economy is not in the best of times, people still need our help. Like all good stewards of Jesus, let’s dig just a little deeper into our budgets and make sure some extra children do not go to bed hungry tonight, that they have the medical care they need, and that they know someone ~ somewhere loves them. *“Let us love one another, because love is of God” ~ 1 John 4:7.* We as Catholic Daughters are so blessed; we are giving and changing lives. To the courts that are not contributing to our charities, maybe now is the time to add that one charity to your list of your court’s charities. To the courts that contribute to the national and state sponsored charities, *thank you*, ~ perhaps you may prayerfully add one more charity this year. Please mail a cover sheet listing your desired charities and your court’s one check for national and/or state charities to Peggy Rosales, State Secretary, 8003 Doe Meadow Dr., Austin, TX 78749. If you need a new list of the national and state charities, notify me, and I will send you a copy immediately. Remember CDA Sisters ~ *“What is done out of love is not small, O my Jesus, for Your eyes see everything.” St. Faustina* God Bless.

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**State Ways and Means**  
**Cathy Bittner, Chairmen**

With help from each and every one of you, we will have another successful fundraiser at the 2009 convention! It is time for all courts to decide what you want to donate to the convention raffle. I suggest several districts or courts combine their efforts for a bigger prize. We are looking for beautiful hand-made items. If your ladies aren’t really the artistic type,

VISA gift cards are welcome. We will purchase these on your behalf. The state court will provide prize #1, so we are in dire need of around 29 (at least) other prizes. Tickets need to be printed in early January, so get crackin’!!!! Let me know via e-mail [cathybittner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cathybittner@sbcglobal.net) or day phone 281-344-1772 or night phone 281-232-4207. I’m looking forward to hearing from every court, every district deputy, every state chairman, & every state officer!  
Cathy Bittner, Ways & Means

*“It’s not how much we do, but how much love we put in the doing. It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put in the giving.” ~ Mother Teresa*

## Catholic Daughters of the Americas State Legislative Report



### **Cardinal Rigali Urges Congress To Respect Conscience Rights**

Responding to objections to anticipated federal Health and Human Services regulations protecting health care providers' fundamental rights of conscience, Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, wrote to all members of Congress on July 18, 2008, defending "efforts to reaffirm and implement laws on conscience protection."

The Secretariat for Pro-Life activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is requesting that we contact our representatives now and urge him or her to support the right of health care entities, including hospitals and insurance providers, to refuse to perform or refer for abortions. For more information regarding conscience clause exemptions, read Cardinal Rigali's letter to Congress at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/rigali-conscience071808.pdf>.

### **Catholic Bishops Welcome Passage And Signing Of National Housing Trust Fund**

Calling the housing needs of low-income Americans a "national priority," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has commended bi-partisan congressional and Bush administration efforts in creating a national Housing Trust Fund. The fund will assist the lowest income households in the United States by helping to build and preserve affordable rental housing. It was created as a provision in the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, which was signed into law by President Bush on July 30. It is the first new federal housing production program for the nation's lowest income families in decades.

### **Upcoming elections:**

The presidential election, along with local and state elections, is coming up in November. For the guideline to permissible political participation in a concise format go to the Texas Catholic Conference website to the Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Participation at [http://www.txcatholic.org/documents/guidelines\\_for\\_pastors.pdf](http://www.txcatholic.org/documents/guidelines_for_pastors.pdf)

As Catholics, our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable. As Catholic voters we are to use our Catholic social teaching to examine candidate positions on issues affecting human life and dignity as well as issues of justice and peace and should consider the candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance rather than his or her attachment to a political party.

### **Legislative Priorities in the 81<sup>st</sup> Legislative Session**

To find the list of priorities as set out by the Texas Catholic Conference in the upcoming 81<sup>st</sup> legislative session go to [http://www.txcatholic.org/documents/81st\\_tcc.priorities.pdf](http://www.txcatholic.org/documents/81st_tcc.priorities.pdf)

Peggy Supak, Legislative chairman, Texas State Court, Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
e-mail address: [fayetteatty@hotmail.com](mailto:fayetteatty@hotmail.com)/ P. O. Box 518, La Grange, TX, 78945/(979) 968-6115





**Be an Informed Voter**  
**Lillie Wolf**  
**State Quality of Life Chairman**

For the sake of the Quality of All Human Life and as 2008's Election Day approaches, all Catholic Daughters are urged to become educated voters. The bishops of the United States have issued some guidelines about voting. They have stated that Christian morality leads us to faithful citizenship. If one is not registered in a current residence, he/she is not living up to his/her Christian duty. One must also learn the positions the candidates hold on all issues. Catholic social teachings must be learned. As Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life, states, "How can a candidate say that he/she believes in human rights

because he/she works for the immigrants and the poor, but allows children to be torn apart through abortion—an intrinsically evil act?" The bishops do state that if all candidates hold the position favoring an intrinsically evil act, one may be allowed to vote for the candidate less likely to advance the cause of evil. As Father Pavone exclaimed, "Never lose hope; never despair. We can do it! It's Friday, but Sunday's coming!" (Evil temporarily rules, but goodness will reign in the end!)

Regents and Quality of Life Chairmen please be an advocate for the Quality of Life program and keep track of all the court's endeavors because reporting time will occur again early next year.

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**State Chairman, Spiritual Enhancement**  
**Olga Samaniego**

It is with great pleasure and high hopes that I welcome you back from what I hope was a peaceful, restful summer. It is going to be an exciting and a busy time as you embark not only on a new CDA year, but also on a new local court term. As you begin to set your goals and to decide on the activities and fundraisers needed to support those goals, don't forget who we are and what we do: we are daughters of God, and we do **WHAT HE CALLS US TO DO**. Not all courts are called to the same service nor are all courts members given the same gifts. We are given the gifts that are needed to accomplish the mission we have been given. So, the first thing we all have to do at the beginning of this term is to **LISTEN**. Take time to pray together and to discern what God is calling you to do. God

will provide you with the strength, the resources, and the grace to accomplish whatever He calls you to do. We are living in an amazing time, and we serve an awesome God. May He continue to bless you as you dedicate yourselves to His service. If you would like to schedule a retreat or talk, please do not hesitate to call or contact me at 915-474-7895 or [olgasamaniego@hotmail.com](mailto:olgasamaniego@hotmail.com).



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**NATIONAL REGENT'S RECEPTION**

All VIP's of Texas, District Deputies, and Local Courts should have received a letter from the State Regent containing all the information concerning the



Mass and Dinner Reception for newly installed National Regent Libby Ramirez.

Please make your room and meal reservations

as soon as possible. The cutoff date for hotel rooms is September 10. After this date, you will be charged regular hotel rates. The deadline for meal reservations is September 15<sup>th</sup>. Send court checks for payment to Peggy Rosales, State Secretary.

Make plans now for attending this reception to congratulate and honor Libby as National Regent from Texas.

Omni Corpus Christi Hotel-Bayfront  
900 North Shoreline Blvd.  
Corpus Christi, TX, 78401  
**800-843-6664 New number to make room reservations.**





**Message Service Community**  
**Youth/JCDA Reports**  
**Terri Beltran State Youth/JCDA Chairman**

In June the State JCDA hosted a Spiritual Retreat at Father John's Farm in Weimer. Approximately 78 youth and adults attended the event. The girls participated in different activities and worked on different projects. Olga Samaniego, State Spiritual Enhancement Chairman, gave an awesome talk on spirituality. We thank Father John Peters, State JCDA Chaplain, for hosting the event and for providing the wonderful meal. We thank State CDA Regent Carolyn Bachmann, Olga Samaniego, Duchess Collins, CDA National Director, and to all the adults who participated in this wonderful retreat.

We know it's early, but we want every JCDA court to start thinking Convention. The JCDA State officers are working hard to make it the best one ever; they have wonderful ideas and will keep everyone informed as time goes on. We are so excited to report that the State Convention will be held at the Westin in the Galleria, Houston, TX, on June 26-28, 2009. Melissa Ornelas will serve as the convention chairperson. It's a beautiful hotel with sufficient parking and plenty of food courts. Start working on your convention fundraisers; we want everyone to attend.

In a few months, we will be holding our fall financial review. The forms may be downloaded from the website or by calling me.

Terri Beltran,  
State JCDA Chairman  
Phone: (979)543-7067 fax: (979)543-7557 email: tabeltran@ecisd.org



**Women Embracing the Gift of Humanity**  
**52nd Biennial National Convention**  
**by Terrie Vacek, Texas Public Relations Chair**



Clergy, Delegates, Alternates and Guests from about 150 Courts throughout Texas gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the 52nd Biennial National Convention July 16th - 19th, 2008. Members of Texas Campus Courts and JCDA were also in attendance. The record-breaking number of almost 1200 delegates, members, and guests were seated theater style with Texas delegates spanning three rows deep from wall to wall and alternates and guests seated in the rear of the room.



The native Matachine dance honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe opened the convention along with the Crowning of Mary ceremony followed by a Living Rosary led by National Clergy Consultant Reverend Michael Schommer. In his opening remarks, Father Schommer called the convention a "time of Grace" adding that "CDA is the Cream of the Crop!"

Claudia Bosch, National Regent 2006-2008 thanked the 23 members of the clergy who were in attendance for their support of CDA stating, "You are our lifeline." Opening keynote speaker 2006-2008 National Chaplain, Reverend Monsignor Gerald J. Walsh stated, "Do whatever God leads you to do... Never underestimate your collective power...I love being a priest and being here with the Catholic Daughters at the same time the Holy Father is at World Youth Day."

Throughout the convention each speech emphasized one common theme “recruitment of new members is a priority for every Catholic Daughter.” The convention offered delegates and alternates six Seminar Workshops: Legislation, Spirituality, Leadership, Development of New Courts, Youth/JCDA and Project Handclasp.

The order of business for the National Convention is to review Resolutions and the proposed Amendments to the Bylaws. Thirteen of the sixteen (out of 51) amendments presented to the delegation passed. Eight of the ten (out of 23) resolutions presented to the delegation passed. Local Regents throughout Texas will receive a post-convention packet with convention minutes including a copy of all the action taken on resolutions and amendments. This information is to be shared with the entire Local Court membership. Numerous Texans serving as National Chairs gave reports.



Carolyn Bachmann, Texas State Regent

The election of the 2008-2010 National Officers and Directors was held Thursday morning with 639 voting delegates. The National Board was installed during the Installation Mass held on Saturday, June 19, at the Immaculate Conception Church of Albuquerque with Most Reverend Michael Sheehan, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe as celebrant. 2008-2010 National Clergy Consultant Reverend Donald Ruppert of East Bernard, presented pins to the new board.



The newly installed National Directors are Helen Arndorfer; Duchess Collins; Maryann Grabasky; Janet Martineau; Lois Nelson; Evelyn Saxton; Helene Shepard; and Lorayne Zimmerman. The new National Officers are National Secretary/Treasurer, Theresa Kocer; Second Vice National Regent, Shirley Seyfried; First Vice National Regent, Anne Nelson; National Regent Elect, Joanne Tomassi, and National Regent Libby Ramirez. The new National Chaplain, the Most Reverend Bishop David Fellhauer of the Victoria Diocese presented Libby Ramirez., from Victoria Texas with her National Regent’s pin. Carolyn Bachmann was elected to the 2010 National Nominating Committee.

L-R Libby Ramirez-National Regent, State Officers; Eve Trevino, Sheila Martinka, Carolyn Malik, Carolyn Bachmann, Dutchess Collins-National Director, Front L-R Peggy Rosales, Olga Samaniego-Past State Regent

Wednesday evening clergy, delegates, alternates, and convention guests enjoyed campaign night with a pizza buffet. Thursday evening 184 Texans, filling four chartered buses, enjoyed a traditional New Mexico dinner at El Pinto, the largest restaurant in New Mexico. Friday evening convention attendees came together to celebrate the culture of New Mexico and the native traditions including a grand march, the table-side Mariachi band, and a wonderful Mexican buffet at the Albuquerque Convention Center. The overwhelming response to the call to convention forced the use of two ballrooms for the Saturday night Appreciation Banquet steak dinner. The program was shown on overhead video screens in both ballrooms.

Through their love of CDA and their support of Women of Faith, the various clergy shared daily prayer services and/or Mass and consistently reminded members that when we all “bring our gifts and talents to the table in unity, charity, and service, we are not only beautiful women of faith, but a dynamic bouquet.” With the support of our Chaplains and Clergy Consultants the Catholic Daughters of the Americas experience success in and through their charitable service both in volume and content. From the National and State Court to the Local Courts, CDA is a strong order and will continue to serve God, our Country, and our Brothers and Sisters with dignity and grace for we are “Women Embracing the Gift of All Humanity” and “Together we are strong!”



Texas State Officers L-R Secretary Peggy Rosales, First Vice Regent Sheila Martinka, Regent Carolyn Bachmann, Second Vice Regent Carolyn Malik, Treasurer Eve Trevino

# State News

**WIN! WIN! WIN!**

Win BIG \$\$\$ with the Texas State Membership Contest!! It's not too late to get into the game. Your court still has time to invite and recruit new members.



Even though the contest began April 1, 2007, it is not over yet!! Hurry, though; the contest runs through March 31, 2009, so you still have time to increase your numbers and have a chance at increasing \$\$\$!!

The winners will be the courts that bring in the largest increases in membership, including renewals. New courts will only be eligible for members brought in after the first meeting.

## Categories

I	1-50 members
II	51-100 members
III	101-180 members
IV	181 plus members

## Prizes

First Place-----	\$175.00 Credit in Texas State Dues
Second Place--	\$100.00 Credit in Texas State Dues
Third Place----	\$ 50.00 Credit in Texas State Dues

The St. Bernadine of Siena Award will be presented to members who are instrumental in developing new courts.  
**TEXAS CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS WANT YOU!**

## Congratulations on Anniversaries!

St. Rose of Lima #827 Mission  
85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – October 18

Prince of Peace #1787 San Antonio  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – November 1

St. Bernadette #1108 East Bernard  
80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – November 15



## Welcome New Courts!

Court of the Holy Family #2597  
12110 Oak Park Dr  
Houston, TX 77070  
Regent Mary Jane Albert

Court Sisters of Pauline #2605  
2543 County Rd. 2028  
Aransas Pass, TX 78336  
Regent Vicki Gonzales

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## State Convention Chairman

**Estela Ramirez,**  
**estelasr@aol.com**  
**956-233-9444**

Here in the Rio Grande Valley we are busy and very excited planning for the Texas State Convention to

be held April 23-26, 2009, in McAllen. We are looking forward to seeing all our CDA sisters. Very shortly we will be sending the information for the convention program ads. To all the Texas courts, please remember to get your ads as this helps with the cost of the convention and State Court's operating expenses.



*“Spread Love everywhere you go...let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier.” Mother Teresa*



## Texas State Calendar 2008-2009

September 6, 2008	Officers Training Districts 10, 28, 37, Columbus San Marcos Retreat
September 7, 2008	Institution Our Lady of Faith, Frydek 7:30 a.m. Mass
September 13, 2008	Officers Training Districts 2, 33, Slaton
September 20, 2008	Officers Training District 5, 6, Tyler
September 20, 2008	Officers Training District 1, 32, 54, Juarez Court, El Paso,
September 27, 2008	National Regent's Reception, Corpus Christi
October 17, 2008	McAllen Convention Meeting
October 18, 2008	85 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Rose of Lima #827, Mission
October 25, 2008	Retreat, Houston District #24 and area Districts
October 31-Nov. 1-2, 2008	State Board Meeting, Port Alto
November 1, 2008	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Prince of Apostles #1787, San Antonio
November 15, 2008	Houston/Galveston Diocese Memorial Mass, 10 a.m.
November 15, 2008	80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Bernadette #1108, East Bernard 4-9 Mass 5
January 9-11, 2009	State Board Meeting – McAllen
January 24, 2009	Retreat District 53 and area Districts
February 27, 2009	Retreat Multi-District Austin
March 7- 9, 2009	State Board Meeting, El Paso
March 27-28, 2009	State Financial Review, Houston
April 23-26, 2009	46 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Texas State Convention, McAllen
May, 2009	10 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Our Lady of the Seven Hills #2464, Huntsville
June 5-7, 2009	Change of Power State Board Meeting, Houston
June 13, 2009	Interim Financial Review State Convention 2009
June 26-28, 2009	JCDA State Convention Houston
July 31-August 1-2, 2009	State Organizational Meeting, Houston
November 14, 2009	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Maria Galante #115, Austin 11-3

### Financial Reviews

October is only a month away, and Financial Reviews will be scheduled. District Deputies and Court Officers, make sure to have all books and materials needed for the financial review present. District Deputies, you are to check and make sure all National and State dues have been paid for May 2008 and back. I will ask Peggy Rosales to send an email to all DD's on courts who owe. If the dues have not been paid, District Deputies are to collect a check for dues owed and sent to National and/or State. I hope to see that some of those large bank accounts are now smaller since scholarships and National Convention expenses have been paid.

If monies are not designated properly and good paper trails do not exist in your financial books, your court can be in trouble if the IRS comes in to audit the court. Courts that have sizable accounts, please spend your money. CDA is a charitable organization, and the IRS frowns on large bank accounts not being used.

*Carolyn Bachmann*





# NATIONAL NEWS

## LEGISLATION 501(c)(3) UPDATE

Regents, in the June newsletter you were sent a letter written by Helen Johnson, National Legislative Chairman, explaining in detail a 501(c)(3) organization. It is very important that each regent make copies of this letter and have them available for the court officers and members.

Helen Johnson presented a Legislative Workshop at the National Convention and several ladies from Texas who attended the workshop said they had not seen the letter. All regents receive a Texas newsletter, and the letter was in the June issue.

## *NATIONAL CONVENTION AWARDS*

### MEMBERSHIP 2006-2008

#### INSTITUTED THE MOST COURTS

Texas – instituted seven courts (actually instituted twelve new courts and disbanded five)



#### STATES WITH NET GAINS

Texas 1<sup>st</sup> Place Category IV – 77 members gained

#### LOCAL COURTS WITH NET GAINS

Muenster - St. Mary #249 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 32 new members

#### NEW COURTS BRINGING IN THE MOST MEMBERS DURING THE INSTITUTION

San Antonio – Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima #2596 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - 24 members

### LEADERSHIP 2006-2008

#### **The Most Outstanding State Project in the area of Leadership During the Last Two Years.**

Texas State Court awarded the State Initiative Award – Building Leadership Capacity

The Texas State Court was recognized for its outstanding training of state representatives, new officers, and members. Workshops are comprehensive, and the trainer of trainer model was used to extend learning from the state to the local court level. This model clearly demonstrates how a state can build the capacity for leadership.





**2008 NATIONAL PROJECTS**

**STATE WINNERS**

The top three states were awarded.

- Texas**
- Minnesota
- Louisiana

The Texas State Court and Local Courts gave \$59,977.39. Texas superseded all states by \$27,700.00. Thank you, members and the Stephen and Mary Birch Foundation, for your generous contributions.

**SPIRITUAL  
ENCHANCEMENT**

**STATE WINNERS**

- Top three states awarded
- Texas**
  - Minnesota
  - North Carolina

**YOUTH**

**STATE COURT AWARDS**

- Texas 1<sup>st</sup> Place Category IV

**EDUCATION**

**STATE COURT  
PROJECTS**

- Top three states awarded
- Texas**
  - New Jersey
  - New York

**2008 STATE NEWSLETTER**

- Texas 1<sup>st</sup> Place Category II, Division II – Carolyn Bachmann

**2008 LOCAL COURT NEWSLETTER**

- Ct. Mary, Mother of God #2084 Hempstead - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Category I, Division I – Cheryl Thomas
- Ct. Regina Coeli #1950 Houston - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Category II, Division I – Laura Gwosdz
- Ct. St. Rose #1597 Schulenburg - 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Category II, Division II – Cynthia Kosler
- Ct. St. Bernadette #1108 East Bernard - 1<sup>st</sup> Place Category III, Division I – Terri Vacek
- Ct. St. Ann #369 Victoria – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Category III, Division II – Margaret Kutchka

**2008 YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER**

**PUBLIC/PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL**

- Gabriella Garcia – Corpus Christi - \$500.00

**LEONARD BACHMANN SCHOLARSHIP \$1000.00**

- Brittany Smith – Texas Christian University

**2008 EDUCATION CONTEST WINNERS**

- Sarah Pfeffer – St. Ann #369 Victoria – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay Division III
- Camille Mica – St. Bernadette #1108 East Bernard– 1<sup>st</sup> Place Poetry Division III
- Emily White – Our Lady of St. Hyacinth #2361 Deer Park – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Poetry Division II
- Alexa Pigno – St. Cecilia #1396 Orange – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Art Division II

