

# THE LONE STAR MESSENGER

Newsletter of the Texas State Court  
Catholic Daughters of the Americas  
March 2009 Edition



## MESSAGE FROM THE STATE REGENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We celebrated the birth of Jesus just a few months ago. We now prepare ourselves to remember His passion and His glorious resurrection. Would you have the courage to give your life for another? Jesus did not hesitate to give the ultimate gift of love to save us from sin.

Spring will soon be here, and new life will blossom all around. The beauty of spring with its multitude of colors and fragrant smells will remind us to give thanks for all we are given. How I enjoy this time of year when all the bare trees develop their new summer foliage and the yard turns from a dry straw look to the fresh green of new grass. The winter has been extremely dry for most of Texas, and it has been cold for us up north; but, hopefully, spring will bring more promise of rain.

As your State Regent, I am in high gear preparing for the 2009 State Convention and this means my term is coming to a close. There have been the highs with all the joy I have shared with all of you and there have been the lows that made me dig my heels in and made me move forward in a positive way. As my term comes to an end and a new term prepares to begin, I invite all of you to be a part of this exciting convention. The City of Palms, McAllen, offers you the beautiful mixture of true southern hospitality and the delightful culture of Mexico. I promise you a memorable convention with beautiful Eucharistic celebrations, unique speakers, exciting workshops, and most of all the unity of CDA sisters sharing with one another. Yes, we are CDA sisters in "One Faith, One Body, One Lord of All."

The Court Regents have received their First Call to Convention, the Circle of Love packet, the January newsletter, a mailing from National, the Call to Convention, and the March newsletter. Please refer to all these mailings for the answers to the many questions you may have. There is a tremendous amount of information in all these mailings that apply to the convention, all contests, and reports that are due.

I hope to see all of you, your officers, and members at the State Convention. God bless all of you wonderful ladies and have a blessed Easter holiday.

*Carolyn Bachmann*



"Together We Are Strong" Eccl. 4:9

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# **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  
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Please keep us up to date regarding your address.

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

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## Message from the State Chaplain



Get to the State CDA Convention in McAllen! Come by whatever means necessary ... Just BE THERE!

CDA conventions are centered on traits I think every Christian should portray. We worship together, share ideas about how we can best serve the Church and our local communities, and join in social activities. We

should strive to be a model Christian community: One that PRAYS together, WORKS together, and PLAYS together. The theme of this convention, “ONE FAITH, ONE BODY, ONE LORD OF ALL,” echoes the motto of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, “Unity and Charity.”

Some people seem to think that a Christian has to be a somber, serious, strictly business, no monkeyshine type person. I think some folks get the idea that if we’re having fun we must be doing something wrong. Jesus didn’t fit this mold. He had dinner with friends, went to wedding celebrations, and stopped to talk with strangers. I think Jesus was a “fun person” to be with and we should be, too.

The state officers, committee chairman, and district deputies have worked together and accomplished much during their term in office. Their dedication and enthusiasm is an inspiration for all members. Our State Regent Carolyn Bachmann held the reigns of leadership and guided Texas on the path to continued success. – Be of one mind and one heart. This example of unity will be a beacon that attracts Catholic women to our great organization.

I look forward to seeing all of you in McAllen. May the Lenten season be a time of spiritual renewal for you and your court. God bless you.

Yours in Christ,

*Father Don Ruppert*

Texas State Chaplain



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### Prayer List

Regent #1538, Wallis  
Leona Ramona Jetelina  
3671 FM 1093 W  
Wallis, TX 77485

Louis Buzek (Ruthie Buzek husband)  
2105 Kirby  
El Campo, TX 77437



Minnie Rodgers  
District Deputy #21  
2310 Brock  
Mission, TX 78572

Terrie Vacek  
12886 Aries Loop  
Willis, TX 77318



## Texas National Director Duchess Collins



The next few months are going to be busy, busy, busy. Excitement is in the air because the 2009 State Convention will be here before we know it. I am thrilled that I will be able to attend the convention and look forward to participating in the many exciting activities that have been scheduled by the McAllen convention committee.

By now election of Delegates and Alternates to the State Convention should have been completed and the names sent to the National Office and State Regent. I would encourage every court to have representation at the convention, and be a part of the decisions made through the voting process that is so vital to the future of Catholic Daughters. Any member of your court may attend and have the opportunity to see and hear of the wonderful projects and contributions the courts in Texas are involved in. Another important part of the convention is to have a lot of fun and renewing friendships.

Hopefully, members attending the state convention have started making their travel arrangement. Please remember to include your Chaplain when you are making your convention plans.

Has your court been actively recruiting new members? What better way to kick off the New Year than by hosting a membership drive or open house in your parish. New members bring fresh ideas and new perspectives that can keep your court active and increase the strength of the membership. We all know that the best way to recruit a new member is by just asking them to join. Let's not wait any longer; someone is out there waiting for your call.

The Lenten Season is here. As always it gives us all the opportunity to grow in our love for God and to review the priorities in our life. When we review our life, if we find it cluttered and overcrowded with worldly concerns we must reevaluate our priorities assuring that God and His teachings remain first in our lives. Making time for prayer, performing deeds of kindness and fasting are Lenten practices which cultivate a closer relationship with God. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas have done a wonderful job of sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting others to know, love and serve Him in the Church.



Wishing you a blessed Lenten Season and a glorious Easter Sunday!

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### 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:

- That we may work together as a true sisterhood in real "unity and charity."
- That those in economic crisis will find safety and the means to provide food and shelter for their families.



*"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said." Matthew 28:6*

## **Court Development**

### **Sheila Martinka, First Vice State Regent**

The New Year is here and spring is fast approaching and we continue to move forward. I am reminded of a saying by Oliver Wendell Homes, "The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in the direction we are moving." Yes, we are moving forward with new courts and new members, ladies! Building for now and for the future!

All of the State Board as well as our National Director, Duchess Collins and our National Regent, Libby Ramirez were present on January 18, 2009 when Texas instituted our fifth campus court at St. Mary's University, The Belles of St. Mary's. In addition to having a new court in Texas, it was a very special day for Libby as her granddaughter is a student at St. Mary's University, and she joined the ranks of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas!

We continue to be very busy and on February 22, 2009, we will be instituting Court Archangels of St. Michael's #2618 in Umland, Texas. The following weekend will we be in Kingsville at St. Joseph's parish welcoming Court Daughters of St. Joseph #2619! We welcome them into our CDA sisterhood!

Ladies, when you see our new sisters at the convention, take time out to say hello and welcome them into our CDA family!

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## **Leadership**

### **Carolyn Malik, Second Vice State Regent**

#### **LEADERSHIP TIPS FOR 2009 – YOU ARE SPECIAL!**

There is nobody else like you. Nobody else has the same ability or personality, interests or gifts as you do. These gifts were given to you by Our Creator, so it is up to you to use them wisely. The only one who can

make the most of this potential is **YOU!** Some guidelines to follow are

1. Recognize and develop your gifts.
2. Take stock of your strong points.
3. Build up your self-confidence.
4. Overcome problems that limit you.

Think of the words in Isaiah 41:10 – "I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you."

#### **THEN, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

*"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received"*  
*1 Peter 4:10*

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#### **BEAUTIFUL CHRISTIAN SISTER**

By Maya Angelou

'A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ  
That a man should have to seek Him first to find her.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not shouting 'I'm  
clean living,'  
I'm whispering 'I was lost, Now I'm found and  
forgiven.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I don't speak of this  
with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my  
guide.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not trying to be  
strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to  
carry on.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not bragging of  
success.  
I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my  
mess.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not claiming to be  
perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am  
worth it.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I still feel the sting of  
pain...  
I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not holier than thou,  
I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good  
grace, somehow!

Pretty is as Pretty does... but beautiful is just plain  
beautiful!

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

Happy New Year! A little late, but none the less a new year has begun! I appreciate the Christmas and Happy New Year wishes sent to me and my family! When I think of a new year – I think of a new beginning – I think of spring and time to do the spring cleaning and starting with a fresh slate! Here are some reminders that will help the financial secretaries and treasurers, so Regent's please pass on these reminders to your officers.

- ✍ You are doing a great job on putting **TWO SIGNATURES** on court checks! Treasurers, please make sure that your **COURT NUMBER** is on your court checks. We have over 90 courts in the Houston area, and I know that you would like your court to receive credit for the payment. If you are going to order checks soon – please add your court number! Thank you!
- ✍ Please pay the state dues when you **RECEIVE** your statement. It does not take a court vote to pay National and State dues. The National bylaws state that dues are to be paid within 30 days (Article IV Dues, Section 2 National and State Dues). Your May assessment will have state dues (\$1.50 per member); JCDA (\$.10 per member); Theological Fund (\$1.00 per member).
- ✍ Please make **ALL** your checks payable to the **TEXAS STATE COURT**. In the memo area of the check write what it is for; example (5/09 state dues, JCDA, Theo) or (5 Nat'l Projects).
- ✍ **ALL NATIONAL AND STATE DUES AND ASSESSMENTS MUST BE PAID IN FULL IN ORDER TO BE SEATED AT THE STATE CONVENTION.**

Thank you for all the invitations to your Court anniversaries, Christmas parties and activities. You are truly a wonderful group of ladies with big hearts! Carolyn Bachmann State Regent's theme for this term, "Together We are Strong," has been very evident in the state of Texas. We all do are part – but when we come together – **GREAT** things happen! You have been generous with your court funds for the state and national projects and charities – your donations have helped many people at home and abroad. Easter is upon us and it is a time for renewal. Our state convention is coming, and with it comes a time to renew friendships and begin some new friendships and to continue what I think is one of the most wonderful aspects of CDA and that is the sisterhood we have with one another. I am looking forward to seeing my sisters of CDA in McAllen.

Happy Easter, may we all have joy with the risen Lord!

*"For you make me jubilant, Lord, by your deeds; at the works of your hands I shout for joy." Psalms 92:5*

### **May Dues & Assessments**

**The May state dues and assessments will be billed to each court in June 2009!** The state's server will be undergoing some maintenance and updating during the month of May. Please remember that state dues and national dues do not require a vote to be paid. Your **June** billing will have the state dues of \$1.50 per member; \$1.00 per member for Theological Fund and \$.10 per member for JCDA whether you have a JCDA court or not.

Please remember to pay the dues and assessments as soon as you receive them, have your court number on the check, 2 signatures per the National bylaws Article XIV, Section 3, page 42! Remember to also make the check payable to: **TEXAS STATE COURT**. The statements will be sent out from me, Peggy Rosales, State Secretary, but your dues check will be sent to the **NEW STATE SECRETARY** for processing and then on to the **NEW STATE TREASURER** for deposit. Also, remember that if the dues are not received within 90 days of the billing date a \$5.00 late fee will be required.

The state officers will not be taking the summer off – so send the dues in! Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me or email me at [prosales@austin.rr.com](mailto:prosales@austin.rr.com).

## Dollars and Cents

### Eve Trevino, State Treasurer

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year. I want to thank you for your kind Christmas cards, prayer cards, and invitations that were sent to me during the Christmas season.



Thank you for coming together and extending prayers for our Catholic Daughters and their families in their time of need. Together our prayers are very powerful.

Spring is upon us and our 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Texas State Convention is around the corner. I look forward in seeing you in McAllen on April 23-26, 2009. May God bless each one of you and for your work with Catholic Daughters.

Listed are some reminders to the treasurers when making checks to the state:

Make the checks to *CDA Texas State Court* when paying state dues, donations, national projects, or Memorial Mass enrollments. Do not make the check payable to the state officer or an individual.

The only time you make the check payable to a state officer or an individual is when a special letter is sent for a special collection.

If your court's name and number are not printed on your checks, you will need to write them on each of your checks before sending them out. Make sure that you make a notation in the "memo area" of the check as to what the check is for.

You can add your court's name and number when your reorder checks or when you change banks.

All monies must be sent to *state secretary* and not the state treasurer. Just remember it is just like your local courts; all monies go to the financial secretary and then to the treasurer.

Make sure all checks have *two signatures* before mailing.

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## Membership

### Sheila Martinka, First Vice State Regent

"And the Winner is . . ."

Ladies, last time I asked what was on your CDA shopping list—new members! Now I am asking what was your New Year's resolution. New Members! That's right! You still have time to get those new members in before March 31, 2009! Your court could be the big winner in membership! You don't have to push, just ask and invite them to your meeting and share what CDA has to offer. Then ask them to share what they have to offer CDA. It never hurts to ask. You may not get the answer you are looking for, but you will never know until you ask. Each and everyone one of us makes a difference. There are no losers when we make a difference doing the Lord's work! I hope to see all of you and your new members in McAllen in April!



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## CDA Wants You!

Looking for a job that gives back to you things that money could never buy? Love to work hard but have fun doing it so it doesn't even seem like work? Are you a team player?

Are you a member of the Catholic Daughters? Do you have what it takes to be a leader? Are you persuasive, not pushy or bossy? Assertive, not aggressive? Are you committed to doing a job and following it through? Do you have initiative? Do you always give 110%? Can you "Let Go and Let God" guide you and show you what you are capable of?

If you answered yes to all of these questions, then CDA wants and needs your commitment to serve as a District Deputy or State Chairman for the upcoming two year term.

District Deputy duties include following the chain of command, attending the state organizational meeting, attending 2 financial reviews of your assigned courts, and attending two meeting of your assigned courts each year. You will also assist the court regent or courts as needed, organize and work with other DDs to schedule multi district meetings, officer trainings, and retreats, and assist the State Regent with other requested duties.

State Chairman duties include following the chain of command, attending the state organizational meeting, submitting reports on your respective assignments, obtaining judges for the particular contests, and writing newsletter articles when requested by the State Regent.

If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Bachmann, State Regent

## Memorial Scholarship Report Carolyn Malik, Chairman



Thanks are extended to all the courts in Texas who are utilizing the Memorial Scholarship program. Many of the new courts have begun sending in enrollments as well as some of the courts who have been inactive in this program in the past. Enrollment forms can be found on the State website: [www.texascd.org](http://www.texascd.org)

### Points to remember:

All court checks require two (2) signatures;  
Enrollment forms may be sent in without the form being completely full of 15 names. You may send in one name if that is all you have. Send forms in by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month to the State chairman.

Deadline for Scholarship Applications was postmark of January 31, 2009. Applications postmarked after this date were not eligible for consideration by the panel of judges. Thank you to all the courts for giving the youth in Texas the opportunity to apply for State scholarships. Regents and chairpersons, please make this notation – in the future, please instruct your applicants to put the correct postage on the applications. Many were received this year with postage due, and this delays the receipt of the application.

We thank you for your efforts in promoting the State scholarship program. Remember, all these monies come back to the youth of Texas in the form of scholarships. Keep up your good works for Our Lord and His Mother.

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## State Financial Review Chairman Janis Wright

Hi, everyone! By the time you read this article, Regents should have scheduled their April semi-annual financial review with their District Deputy. When selecting your financial review committee, you must appoint a minimum of three members, since three signatures are required on the form that is completed at the review. If your court has a large membership or has a lot activity producing much paperwork, then you probably want to add more people to your review committee. Some ladies find it easier to work in pairs when checking the books. Please allow plenty of time for the review so the ladies aren't rushed and can complete the review according to the guidelines in the Tools of the Trade.

The State Financial Review Committee will be reviewing the books of the State Court on March 28. I'm really looking forward to the state convention and hope to see you there.

God bless you as you continue to do His work!

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## State Public Relations Chairman Terrie Vacek

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

### Promoting Texas 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention with your Court!

It is critically important to establish exposure of CDA by penetrating the public with WHO the Catholic Daughters of the Americas are, and, most importantly, WHAT the Catholic Daughters DO. Let all of Texas know that we are a large group of hard working and committed Catholic women making a difference throughout our communities and the world by service projects found in the "Circle of Love" program.

Many of you are busy writing your Circle of Love Reports... a copy of each report given to your Publicity Chair would provide more than enough information for a wonderful press release along with a photo of the Delegates and Alternates elected to attend this year's convention.

If your court had a memorable winter event, brag about it with a feature story. Promote your upcoming spring activities. Just tell your story the best way you can as often as you can!

Guidelines for writing a press release may be found on the state website under Resources/Forms. Finally, submit a copy of all your court's media coverage to Terrie Vacek, 12886 Aries Loop, Willis, TX 77318 for your State Regent's Scrapbook.



## Scrapbooking A Treasure

**Terrie Vacek, State Scrapbook Chairman**  
terriecda@cebridge.net

**It's not too late to enter!** The participation in the Scrapbook contest at each biennial convention is a time to boast about your charitable programs, spiritual events, and your local court's willingness to promote Unity and Charity. We hope to have a scrapbook entry from every court at the 46<sup>th</sup> Biennial State Convention in McAllen! If you are unable to attend, send your scrapbook with your District Deputy or neighboring local court.



All scrapbooks must be submitted before 12:00 noon to room 103-B on Thursday, April 23. The judging of scrapbooks is done the day of registration at each convention; therefore, the number of entries is currently unknown and the reason for a Thursday deadline.

The SCRAPBOOK is a treasure book (not a photo album) that records in CHRONOLOGICAL order the ACTUAL HISTORY of the COURT'S events and allows the story behind your photos to be told. Unlike

photo albums, scrapbooks allow every memorable detail to be included, and it reflects your court's personality! The Court Scrapbook does not belong to a chairman. This is why we have guidelines for judging. Guidelines do not eliminate the gifts and talents or a chairman's creativity; they emphasize the awe that came from all members working together in unity-love-and service for our Lord. That beauty is then being recorded for generations to come. Just think of how many Texas courts are reaching their 30 or 90 year anniversary! Archive your history with that vision!

Some of us need the biennial judging to complete the archiving of the past two years events; this competition prevents us from postponing its completion due to our very busy schedules. You've invested a lot of money and time in your memories so by creating scrapbook pages; you are giving your memories the honor they deserve.

The detailed guidelines and judging score sheet are mailed annually to each DD and Local Court Regent. They also may be found on the State Website under forms. For further questions or information please email terriecda@cebridge.net or call me at 936-856-9899.

**Keep up the good work as we continue to record our love and service on paper!**

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## The Navigator

**Teresa Maltbia, State Website Chairperson**  
webadmin@texascda.org

Have you checked out the new tool to help Texas gain new members? The Texas Court Locator is up and running. All 226 courts have been entered! I am sad to report that only 24 courts have sent in all or partial information about their court. Ladies, I need your HELP! Please send in your court's information. Example:

Court Our Lady of St. John #2557  
Meeting Location: Church Hall 7500 Hirsch Houston 77016  
Meets: 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm, Social at 230pm. No meetings in July or August

Remember this is not the Regent's information! We are still working on making sure the additional Court information is shown on the site. Anyone can submit their court's info.

To the courts that have websites, have you submitted your form for the contest? You still have time! Email or mail the Web Site Contest form to me before March 15th.



*"Some questions cannot be answered by Google."*

## National Projects Texas State Court Ginger Shea, Chairman

Yea...the reports on what our courts are doing are beginning to arrive. You know what that means, like the other chairmen, I will be staying up late at night reading and compiling all of those very informative reports from you.



Don't forget to mail in those Circle of Love forms. It has been such a blessing being the chairman of such an important project; and, with the Convention just around the corner, I will meet you in McAllen to learn with you just how many awards your court will take home to share with all of your members.

It is not too late, if your court has not made a donation this year for the National Projects/Charities, please do so. The five projects are Disaster Relief Fund, SOAR, Holy Cross Family Ministries/Father Peyton, Habitat for Humanity, and Smile Train. You may give to all or pick your favorite project(s). Please send your court's check for the National donations to State

Secretary Peggy Rosales so Texas can keep up with what and who our state donates to. In your letter to Peggy, list your donations of how much and to which project/charity you want the donation to go. The state will mail the money to National earmarked for the various Charities and Projects. Write those checks now, don't delay, a lot of people are depending on you. See you at the State Convention.

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## Raffle "Fun"raiser State Ways and Means Cathy Bittner, Chairmen

By the time you receive this newsletter, all courts should be selling the convention raffle tickets. If you did not get your packet, let me know ASAP! PLEASE, participate in the endeavor. Sell all your tickets for only \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 per page and return stubs and money only to:

Cathy Bittner, chairman  
3307 Pecha Ln.  
Rosenberg, TX 77471



This is the only fundraiser the State has so please do your part and sell your tickets. The state has gone to only one fundraiser every two years at convention time. Help to keep increases in state dues down. Please DO NOT return unsold tickets; SELL THEM ALL!!!! We will also be collecting monies and stubs at the convention.

If you need more tickets, do not hesitate to copy and print more or contact me. Together, we can generate funds for our Texas Court. All we need to do is our share.

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## QUALITY OF LIFE Lillie Wolf, State Chairman

I would like to thank all those courts who have submitted their annual "Quality of Life" reports. These reports display the accomplishments that can be acquired with a united effort.

We must continue to be vigilant of all LIFE issues—most especially those that entail the dealings of Congress. Please voice your opinion to your congressmen regarding FOCA (Freedom of Choice Act). We must be able to read between the lines.

Many times titles are deceptive, so we must be learned about "life" issues so as not to be deceived.

Please, please STUDY, WORK, and most importantly PRAY about these vital issues to enable all mankind to recognize the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death.



## State Chairman, Spiritual Enhancement Olga Samaniego

Thank God for spring! It's a time of rebirth and renewal. We've grown cold over the long winter months, and it is time to open up the windows of our souls and let God's love penetrate and melt the iciness. We need to let Him do some spring cleaning—to brush out the cobwebs and sweep out the dust so that we are joyful and ready to spread the Good News that Jesus Christ is Lord! Thank you to all who have scheduled spring retreats for being willing to build some time into your busy lives to allow the Lord to do His work in you. If you haven't set time aside yet for just you and God, please do so. Take advantage of the Lenten retreats and days of recollection being held in many

parishes across the state. A wise person once said, "You can't give what you don't have." There is much to do, and much will be asked of you. Take time to allow the Lord to prepare you for service, so that you can answer His call joyfully and without reservation. On a personal note, thank you for your prayers and support during my recent illness. I am feeling much better, and I look forward to seeing you all at the convention in McAllen. May the peace and joy of God be with you today and always.

*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*

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### MESSAGE FROM SECOND VICE STATE REGENT CAROLYN MALIK

A big Thank You is extended to all the CDA members and CDA courts in Texas that remembered me during the recent Christmas season with greeting cards and Memorial Mass enrollments. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated. May God send His richest blessing to all of you.

We are fast approaching the season of Lent. Every Lent is our personal journey as a pilgrim with Our Lord to the Cross. The forty days of Lent should remind us of Jesus' time in the desert. Our desert is the period of time that we fast, abstain, pray, and make sacrifices for our sins and the sins of the entire world. And so we begin our journey of Lent with Faith. Faith gets us started, hope keeps us going, and Love is what brings us to the end. "So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1Corinthians 13:13) Our Love for Our Lord is what Lent and Easter are all about.

May each and every one of you have a faith-filled Lenten journey and a Glorious Easter. See ya' in McAllen!

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#### **Congratulations on Anniversaries!**

Prince of the Apostles #1787, San Antonio  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – November 8, 2008

JCDA Annunciation #1962, La Grange  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – February 15, 2009

St. Theresa of Lisieux #2211, Sugar Land  
29<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – February 21, 2009

Court Aquinas #2266, Sugar Land  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – May 16, 2009



#### **Welcome New Courts!**

Court of Salve Regina #261  
JoAnne Woelkle, Regent  
2817 Westayan Drive  
Denton, TX 76210  
940-594-6934  
harrybuick9@verizon.net

Belles of St. Mary's #2615  
Campus Court  
Francesca Garcia, Regent  
c/o Irene Quesnot, Advisor  
One Camino Santa Maria #16  
San Antonio, TX 78228-8516  
210-413-8299  
Fgarcia1@mail.stmarytx.edu

Uhland - Archangels of St. Michael's #2618  
Delia Humphrey  
445 Camelia Parkway  
Kyle, TX 78640  
903-715-1799  
jade060605@yahoo.com

## Courts In Action

Approximately 4 months ago, **Court of the Holy Family #2597** began a new ministry for Prince of Peace Catholic Community in Houston, Texas, *St. Gianna's Hope*. *St. Gianna's Hope* is a support ministry, working with the clergy at Prince of Peace, to deliver a memory box to families who have experienced the loss of a child from miscarriage or early infant loss. Some of the items in the memory box are a prayer blanket, meditation cards, a journal, blessed candles, medicinal teas, a handmade wrap for the baby and most importantly, a Certificate of Life for the child. It is a truly touching remembrance of God's littlest angels.

Gianna Beretta Molla (1922-1962) was a wife, mother, doctor and prolife witness. After the birth of three children, she became pregnant again. Towards the end of her second month of pregnancy, she developed a fibroma in her uterus, causing extreme pain and suffering. Before the required surgical operation, and conscious of the risk that her continued pregnancy brought, she pleaded with the surgeon to save the life of the child she was carrying, and entrusted herself to prayer and Providence. The life was saved, for which she thanked the Lord. She spent the next seven months concentrating her efforts as a mother and doctor. A few days before the birth she was ready to give her life to save her child. Gianna Emanuela was born on April 21, 1962. Despite all efforts to save both of them, on April 28, amid unspeakable pain, Gianna died at the age of 39.

Gianna was canonized by Pope John Paul II on May 16, 2004. St. Gianna is the first canonized woman physician and professional who was also a "working mom."



The first annual Memorial Mass hosted by Court of the Holy Family for families who experienced the loss of an infant from miscarriage or early infant death was celebrated at Prince of Peace on December 18, 2008. Over 100 people attended this celebration of life. Fr. Tom Lam gave a beautiful homily of peace and healing for the families who attended. Each family was presented a candle that they placed on the altar in front of the statue of Mary. The families received a special blessing. They were also given a white ribbon to write in the name of their infant. These ribbons were tied to the Christmas tree in the Prince of Peace courtyard after Mass. A social in the Community Center, followed the ceremony. Families were also presented a Christmas ornament to decorate in the name of their child. Deacon Al Prescott blessed the teddy bears that were collected in honor of each infant. The bears were donated to Prince of Peace Outreach Ministry.

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**Court St. Bernadette #1108** Catholic Daughters of the Americas in East Bernard celebrated the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its institution on Saturday November 15<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a rosary at 4:15 pm., Mass at 5, followed by a dinner and program. The date of institution was November 4, 1928. Rev. Donald Ruppert, Court and State Chaplain and National Clergy consultant, was the celebrant at the Mass. Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree Honor Guard participated. Junior Catholic Daughters were altar servers. CDA members served as rosary leaders, greeters, color guard, lectors, gift bearers, and EMEs. CDA member Jan Kopycinski and Steve Sims provided the music. Everyone gathered in the Meeting Room for a dinner prepared by a group of Knights of Columbus, with Albert Smaistrla as the chief cook.

Terrie Vacek was master of ceremonies for the dinner and program. Henriette Jalowy, #1108 regent, introduced guests in addition to those that Vacek had introduced at the head table. Local court vice-regent Janice Polak read correspondence. Financial secretary Debbie Guthman introduced the lifetime members that have 50 years of membership in CDA. Local court treasurer Patricia Michulka recognized the past regents of Court #1108. Carolyn Rapsilver, District Deputy #28, formally received new members in the court.

Greetings were given by these State officers present: State Regent Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland, First Vice State Regent Sheila Martinka of Houston, Second Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik of Shiner, State Secretary Peggy Rosales of Austin, and District Deputy #28 Carolyn Rapsilver of San Felipe. State Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chairperson Terri Beltran of El Campo presented greetings from the State JCDA. Liz Sims, Advisor, introduced the local JCDA officers. National Director, Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, brought greetings from National. Her husband, State Treasurer of the Knights of Columbus Jim Collins, accompanied her. Rev. Donald Ruppert spoke on CDA History and related some humorous stories. The keynote speaker was National Regent Libby

Ramirez of Victoria. She spoke on "Challenge in the Future." During the evening Jan Kopycinski and Janice Polak sang appropriate songs.

Door prizes were given before Vacek, the MC, thanked many people for their efforts in making the memorable evening. The closing prayer and blessing were given by Rev. Donald Ruppert.

**Court Isabella the Catholic #683**, Laredo, made a monetary donation to Mission San Carlos to help with water and sewer connections. The Mission and its pastor, Fr. Jerzy Krzywda serve 11 colonias, most without running water.

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## CDAngels

Regent **Marjorie Kresta** from Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, Texas is truly a "CDAngel." She recruited 13 new members to join our ranks at the January 2009 Noodle soup supper and courtroom reception of new members. A second term regent for Shiner, she is also a former JCDA member. *Submitted by: Carolyn Malik*

**Zulema B. Esparza** has been an inspiration for CDA Court #2448 Sacred Heart of Mary in Brownsville. She has worked diligently to prepare our monthly Corporate Masses, our weekly Rosaries for the entire year, Deceased members Mass, and all other spiritual functions. Many times she is found working on these projects with no help from other members. This includes finding the volunteers to serve as Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, and gift bearers at our Corporate Masses and volunteers to host our weekly Rosary's. A Charter Member for our organization as well as past Regent, she demonstrates the true meaning of love for our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother. We are truly grateful for her dedication. *Submitted by: Angie Castillo (Saenz)*



**Marcella Dornak** is a Charter Member of Court Our Lady of Fatima #1526 of Jourdanton. Presently she serves as Treasurer and has also served as Regent and Secretary. At St. Matthew's she serves as Eucharistic Minister and Lector. She has also worked with the RCIA for 22 years. She is a Director of the Jourdanton Chamber of Commerce and President of her KJZT Lodge. Marcella is a widow and a mother of 9 children. She is a busy, dedicated member of our court and very deserving of this honor. *Submitted by: Mary Ann Barta*

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## SILENT SERMON!

*A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preachers visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.*

*The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and then its fire was no more. Soon it seemed cold and dead! Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow once more with the warmth of the burning coals around it! As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon! I shall be back in church next Sunday.' We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken. They are always the ones lived!*

# State News

## 2009 TEXAS STATE CONVENTION

By the time you get this newsletter the delegate/alternate sheet should have been sent to the State Regent. Delegate/alternate cards will soon be in the mail and please get these filled out and the lower section sent to Peggy Rosales, State Secretary, at 8003 Doe Meadow Drive, Austin, Texas 78749. It is a good idea for the court regent to hold on to the portions of the cards kept by the delegate/alternate and for her to bring them all to convention to make sure the cards are not left at home. The cards need to be in the mail to Peggy by April 10<sup>th</sup>. If they are placed in the mail after this date, she may not receive them before leaving for convention. If this happens she will not have your portion of the card, and you will not be a delegate or alternate. Check the deadline list enclosed to ensure all dates are met for the various entries.



The State will be selling several items at the State Convention. **Your court will be able to purchase the new 2008 Catholic Daughters of the Americas National bylaws** at the Texas State Convention which will save you from having to order them from National. Bring extra court checks because there is going to be a lot of vendors to buy things from.

This is going to be an exciting convention with some beautiful Mass liturgies. Conventions are a wonderful learning tool and a time to meet CDA sisters from across the state of Texas. Come share your ideas, rekindle old friendships, make new friends, energize and motivate yourself and discover new talents that you have to offer to CDA.

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## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHALLENGE

Carolyn Bachmann

I am asking for your help to let me know if there has been a Knight in your area who has been instrumental in bringing in new members or new courts into the Catholic Daughters. I want to recognize the top five men at our convention and award a plaque to them at the Knights State Convention in Houston in May. It is going to be through your help that I can make this possible. Please email or call and let me know.



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## 2013 Convention Bid

The 2009 State Convention is almost here and we are all getting excited about being a part of it. The 2011 State Convention will be held in Houston and plans are starting to be prepared for it. We need the courts to start thinking about the 2013 State Convention. Yes that seems to be a long time down the road, but a word of advice from your State Regent, the time goes by fast. I need you to start talking up the 2013 State Convention with your courts. Someone will need to be prepared to make a bid at the 2009 State Convention on Sunday morning. Where will we go in **2013?**

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## ATTENTION – ALERT – ATTENTION – ALERT

Carolyn Bachmann – State Regent



After printing this article in the last newsletter, there are still robes that I have seen at events that do not follow the national guidelines. Officers, you have been in office for nine months and some officers have not taken the time to hem their robes properly. **Robes must measure 11 inches from the floor when wearing your white shoes.** The length cannot be 10 3/4 inches or 11 3/4 inches or any other length. Shoes must be white and not different shades of tan. Make sure the dress you are going to wear under the robe will not hang below the robe. The robe needs to be ironed before wearing. Wear the robe with pride and dignity. **If robes and shoes do not meet the rules at the state convention and future court events, the officer will not be allowed to take part in the procession. Please go over the rules with your officers.** We do not want to keep you from processing in at the Opening Mass at the Basilica.

## **DISASTER RELIEF FUND**

**Carolyn Bachmann**

At the State Board meeting in January, the State Officers decided to add a new charitable fund for the State of Texas. Texas now has a Disaster Relief Fund to which donations may be made throughout the year like the other Texas charities. With the many disasters our CDA sisters have suffered these past three years, the State officers wanted to be able to help those in need following a disaster. The State is not able to give large amounts, but we will be able to help with small needs like food, clothing, medicine, and utilities.

After attending a CDA function in Houston in November, I was told by a priest at our table that the disaster money sent by the CDA National Office to the Galveston-Houston Diocese was not given to help people but to rebuild the parishes in the area. I was a little taken aback by this. I was always under the impression that the money was given to help the people of the parishes. I directed a member who had asked for help to go to her Diocese and Catholic Charities for help. The Diocese told her they had no money to help individuals, and Catholic Charities said they never heard of Catholic Daughters of the Americas. I know our National Office has given large amounts to Catholic Charities, and yet, they do not know who Catholic Daughters are.

Please add this charitable fund to your list for future donations, so that we can begin helping Catholic Daughters ourselves.

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## **Slate of Officers for 2009-2011**

The 2009 Chairman of the Nominating Committee has submitted the following report:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Nominating Committee discussed via telephone the candidates' resumes on February 12, 2009.



The Committee agreed unanimously on the following slate of officers:

State Regent	Sheila Martinka, Houston
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice State Regent	Carolyn Malik, Shiner
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice State Regent	Peggy Rosales, Austin
State Secretary	Eve Trevino, Corpus Christi
State Treasurer	Minnie Rodgers, Mission

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Ginger Kuthscherousky (Chairman), Dr. Mary Hawkins, Debbie Schirico, Rosie Stockwell, and Dorothy Villarreal.

Candidates wishing to run from the floor for any state office must submit a packet containing a statement of qualifications, a statement of endorsement from your local court, and a consent to serve. Packets must be handed to me before the convention is called to order on Friday, April 24, 2009.

*Carolyn Bachmann, State Regent*

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### ***The Easter Connection***

*According to Biblical scholars, the Easter Lily was found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane where Judas is said to have betrayed Jesus. Legend tells that white lilies miraculously sprung up from the ground where drops of Jesus' sweat and tears fell during his last hours.*



*The Easter Lily also has close associations with Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary. In early religious paintings, the Archangel Gabriel is pictured extending a branch of white lilies to Mary, symbolizing that she had become the virgin mother to the savior.*

*Today, many churches use large bouquets of lilies to adorn their altars and crosses during the Easter season.*



## Texas State Calendar 2008-2009

March 1, 2009	Institution Kingsville # 2619, 11:00 a.m. Mass
March 6-8, 2009	State Board Meeting
March 8, 2009	Multi-District Meeting #11, 12, 30 1 p.m. Yoakum
March 17, 2009	St. Ann's Clergy Night 6:30
March 14, 2009	JCDA Commission/Convention Meeting, Baytown
March 28, 2009	Retreat Rosenberg
March 27-28, 2009	State Financial Review, Houston
March 28, 2009	Retreat Districts 10, 28, 37, San Felipe
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
May 29-31, 2009	KC State Convention Houston
June 5-7, 2009	Change of Power State Board Meeting, Houston
June 6, 2009	State Regents' Reception
June 7, 2009	90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Ann's Victoria
June 13, 2009	Interim Financial Review State Convention 2009
June 14, 2009	Organizational Planning Meeting
June 26-28, 2009	JCDA State Convention Houston
July 9-12, 2009	National Workshop for State Officers
July 31-August 1-2, 2009	State Organizational Meeting, Houston
November 7, 2009	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Maria Galante #115, Austin 11-3
November 8, 2009	85 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary St. Genevieve #917, Falls City 2 p.m.

### Important Deadlines

Newsletter Contest entries	March 1
List of deceased members for program	March 1
Circle of Love Reports	March 1
Education Contest entries to State Chairmen	March 15
Notify chairman of donation to Jumble Auction	March 15
State Circle of Love Reporting Forms	March 31
Registration for State Convention	April 1
Reservations for State Convention meals	April 1
Delegate/Alternate cards to Peggy Rosales	April 10
Reports of State Chairmen to State Regent	April 10
Court Financial Reviews	April 30
JCDA Scholarships	May 1
Father Leonard Bachmann Scholarship	May 1

### ROSTER UPDATES

#### Regents List

#### #26 - #2565

Valerie Garza, Regent  
709 Oak Park Drive  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
325-641-1231  
nenito1206@msn.com

#### #39 - #2399

veronicaatoomey@gmail.com

#### #58 - #1793

Carol Ann Crowson, Regent  
4213 Alabama Avenue  
Dickinson, TX 77539

#### #131 - #2364

Mary Montague, Regent  
110 Dewberry

#### #198 - #2065

Linda Jordan, Regent  
6618 Craigway Rd

**District Deputy #38** Kathleen Taylor kathleentaylor@gmail.com





# NATIONAL NEWS

## NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

The National Regent announced Texas National Representative at the Texas State Board meeting in October. I am happy to announce that Duchess Collins, National Director of Sugar Land, is Texas' new National Representative. Duchess had an article in the last newsletter, but I forgot to formally announce her new position. Most all of you know Duchess. She is a Past State Regent and has dedicated many years to Catholic Daughters. Add her to your invitation list, and welcome her to your court's functions.

## FINANCIAL REVIEWS

All local court financial reviews should be scheduled with your district deputy this month and completed by April 30th. I must ask the court officers and the district deputies to have these completed on time. This is the year for the election of new state officers, and it is my responsibility to have all my duties completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. It is only with your help that I can do this. The State Regent's schedule is full and running over with things that I need to complete, and with convention on the horizon, I do not have the time to send multiple emails and numerous phone calls out to get these reviews completed. Please help me to get the state and national work completed on time.

## MARCH FOR LIFE

Libby Ramirez, National Regent, and Duchess Collins, National Director, attended the March for Life in Washington DC on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a warm day in Washington in the 40's for the March. You could actually see Libby's face this year. Libby and Duchess represented us well, and it is not too late to make a donation to them for March for Life to help in the fight of abortion.

## NATIONAL AND STATE DUES AND SUPPLIES

This is a reminder to all the court regents to check with your treasurer to make sure that all National dues and supplies and State dues have been paid. I have notified all District Deputies of courts in their district that owe monies. If your court attends the convention and the court has any outstanding bills to National or State, they must be paid in order to have voting delegates. Please check with your District Deputy to make sure your court is not on the list.

## MORALITY IN MEDIA

March has been designated as National Women's History Month. It is hard to imagine anything more at odds with the mission of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas than a criminal enterprise that turns women and children into sexual commodities for profit. Over the decades, Morality in Media has achieved many legal victories against obscenity in the marketplace and indecency in the media. Continue your support of Morality in Media by making your annual contribution.

*What are four hundred rabbits hopping backwards?  
A receding hare line.*

*What did the rabbit say to the carrot?  
It's been nice gnawing you.*



*How is a rabbit like a cornstalk?  
They both have big ears.*

*How Do You Catch a Unique Rabbit?  
Unique Up on It.*

*How Do You Catch a Tame Rabbit?  
Tame Way.*



Message

Service

Community

### Youth/JCDA Reports

Terri Beltran, State CDA Youth/JCDA Chairman

Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year have been celebrated and we are beginning the Lenten Season; they are all different seasons connecting us to our Lord Jesus Christ. We thank him for life, we thank Him for hope and we thank Him for salvation; it is with this in mind that I am encouraging the Youth to do something special during Lent preparing themselves for Easter Sunday.

The youth in your parishes are vibrant and dedicated in their service in the parishes and communities. They serve as altar servers, music ministry, participate in "Stepping Stones", serve in food pantries, collect clothes, food and money for the homeless, our youth are our future, take time to nurture them into mature adults.

Our JCDA courts are thriving, we've traveled to Texarkana to install Court Marie #344 in January 09; we now have 55 Courts in this great state of Texas. We will be traveling to Corpus Christi, TX in February to install Court #246 Cathedral, and then back to Houston to install Court Our Lady of St. John #2557.

Thank you, JCDA chairmen for sending me your Financial Reviews for the period of 4/1/08 – 9/31/08; however there are some who have not sent them. Thank you, for sending me your newsletters, they are outstanding and WOW, the girls have been busy serving our parishes, keep up the good work.

Regents I need your help, I'm enclosing a Chairman update, please fill the form and email it to me or drop it in the mail. If your JCDA chairmen have changed please send me those updates; some of my emails have been returned.

Last but not least the JCDA State Board invites everyone to:

**State JCDA Bi-Annual Convention**  
**June 26 – 28, 2009**  
**Westin Hotel-Galleria**  
**Houston, TX**



*"Get the Royal Treatment with JCDA"*

*Convention packets will be mailed soon! Chairmen, start planning your fundraisers!*

JCDA Forms and COL forms are online and may be downloaded at [www.texasda.org](http://www.texasda.org)

#### **Dates to remember:**

**Circle of Love Youth Report** – March 31, 2009

**Financial Reviews** - for the period of October 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

**National Youth Scholarship Applications**-8th grade entering 9th grade in Catholic High School – May 1, 2009

**National Youth Scholarship Application**-8th grade entering 9th grade in a Public/Private High School–May 1, 2009

**State JCDA Convention** – June 26-28, 2008

Lord, when doubts fill my mind, when my heart is in turmoil, quiet me and give me renewed hope and cheer. Ps. 94:19

Terri Beltran, State Youth/JCDA Chairman

