



THE LONE STAR MESSENGER

TEXAS STATE COURT

"We must not only give what we have; we must also give what we are." Joseph Cardinal Mercier

March 2006

www.cdatexas.org

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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.*



MESSAGE FROM THE STATE REGENT

It's almost spring! Just as we are preparing our gardens to bring forth fresh fruit, now is the time for CDA members to do a little cultivating of the soul. I am sure that many of us made New Year's Resolutions, and for many of us, they are long forgotten. That's probably because they centered on what changes we wanted to make—the weight we wanted to lose, the exercise program we wanted to begin. The Lenten season is much more conducive to making lasting change because our thoughts are not centered on what we want but rather on what God wants for us. Our main responsibility this Lent is to place ourselves in the presence of God so that we can hear His voice. If you are thinking about what to "give up" this Lent, please consider giving up some of your time. Spend more time in prayer, attend Mass and receive the Eucharist more frequently, take advantage of Lenten retreats and days of recollection, enter into the practices of fasting and abstinence with purpose and with joy rather than with dread and obligation, and then—wait on the Lord. On Easter morning you will rise with Him renewed and fortified and able to love as He is asking us all to love.

Spring is a busy time for CDA: reports will be filled out, contests will be entered, scholarships will be awarded, projects will be completed, officers will be elected and trained, and district meetings will be planned and presented. Details and deadlines are found in this newsletter, and it is most important that you are aware of and meet deadlines and requirements. However, just as you are praying for individual renewal, remember to pray also as a sisterhood. Pray for renewal and rebirth within your court. If you allow the Holy Spirit to inspire, direct, and strengthen your service, whatever you do as a court during this busy season will glorify and honor God.

Reverend Donald Ruppert, Texas State Clergy Consultant, has written a document that will be a valuable resource to courts and pastors struggling with how to answer questions concerning members of our order who are non-practicing Catholics. It is printed under the "State News" section of this newsletter and will soon be available in a brochure for general publication. Please share this document with your court members.

I want to thank all of you who attended the State Retreat in San Juan. It was such a moving experience. Sister Ninfa Garza guided us through a wonderful time of healing and spiritual growth. I hope that many of you will make plans to attend the next State Retreat in San Angelo. The Lord is sending you a personal invitation, and I pray your response will be, "Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening." May the peace and joy of the Risen Lord be with you.

Olga Samaniego

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

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 Americas.

Goals

1. To be women of faith and prayer.
2. To bear witness to our faith through our actions and interactions.
3. To support our clergy and women religious and to foster vocations.
4. To promote the fact that CDA is a relevant, vibrant organization for today's church.
5. To increase membership.

Activities

- Emphasize that all courts are to implement the Spiritual Enhancement portion of the Circle of Love Program.
- Encourage courts to undertake all other aspects of the Circle of Love prayerfully.
- Provide two state-wide retreats to foster a deeper understanding of the Eucharist.
- Be highly visible in the state to encourage prayer and service.
- Encourage and suggest new area of service that are relevant to today's women and that meet the needs of a changing world.
- Institute more Missions of Mercy projects in different parts of the state.
- Provide more training and time for discussion at district and multi-district meetings.
- Provide more support for courts that are struggling through the Court Outreach Program.
- Encourage the study of the bylaws, parliamentary procedure, and protocol.
- Develop more women to undertake leadership roles in their courts.
- Encourage more courts to become more actively involved with our youth.
- Encourage more participation in our Circle of Love, newsletter, scrapbook, and membership contests.
- Encourage courts to become more visible and active in their churches and communities and to publicize their activities.
- Develop innovative ways to encourage women to join us in our work.
- Develop court incentives for increasing membership.
- Continue to work with technology so that it enhances the efficiency of each officer.

THE LONE STAR MESSENGER is a publication of the *CDA Texas State Court* and is published four times a year, in September, December, March, and June. It is mailed to State Officers, District Deputies, State Chairmen, Court Regents, Vice Regents, and Chaplains. If one of the listed above is not receiving his/her newsletter, please send in the form on the last page of this newsletter with his/her name and address. With each issue, several newsletters are returned as undeliverable, so please keep us up to date regarding address changes.

If there are other court members who would like to receive the newsletter in the mail, the member subscription price is \$7.00 per year, make the check payable to CDA. If, you already have a paid subscription, your expiration date is on the mailing label.

Rosemary Olson, State Newsletter Editor

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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

Letter Edged in Black

A Message from Father Don Ruppert State Clergy Consultant

My Dear Catholic Daughters,

In the last newsletter I said that the officers of your CDA State Court are a group of dedicated women who work extremely well together, have fun together, and have your best interest at heart. I feel it necessary to reinforce this statement. I am saddened by the reports I hear about the efforts on the part of some members to discredit your elected officers. The board often has to make difficult decisions and cannot please everyone. They take their responsibility seriously and act only after prayer and careful, sometimes lengthy, deliberation. I know that in making these decisions they first consider the “good of the order” and do not base them on winning a popularity contest.

Officers of the Texas State Court often have to make decisions based on information that is not commonly available to the general membership. Sometimes these are sensitive issues that if divulged would be contrary to “Charity.”

We will soon be attending the National Convention. I truly hope that we go to Minneapolis united and displaying the enthusiasm and spirit for which Texas has come to be famous. Abraham Lincoln once said, “United we stand, divided we fall.” Texas is the largest state court in the nation. We are enthusiastic and accomplish great things. Don’t let this be destroyed! I pray that CDA in Texas does not condone dissention and unrest that is so common in our world today. There are enough wars being fought!

I hope my next letter can be upbeat and express the lighthearted humor I enjoy. Writing a letter like this is difficult and takes a lot out of me. May God bless you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Don Ruppert". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Reverend Donald R. Ruppert
State Clergy Consultant

Libby Ramirez
Third Vice National Regent

My dear sisters in Christ,

Every once in awhile we should take time for ourselves to listen to God, to take inventory of the gifts God has given us, to focus on inner healing and to spiritually renew ourselves. I had this opportunity when I attended one of the Texas State Retreats. This particular one was held in San Juan, Texas, on January 27-29, 2006. The retreat was very well attended. All the attendees made good use of the time to meditate and reflect. Sister Ninfa was an excellent facilitator and led us through the inner healing and the reflections. It was good to share the weekend with so many friends and sister Catholic Daughters. Our motto of Unity and Charity was manifested throughout the weekend.

It was a pleasure to again take part in the March for Life in Washington, DC. The attendance at the Candlelight Mass always takes my breath because of the youth participation. The number of clergy and religious in attendance is overwhelming. It was not as cold this year as it was last year, but for this South Texas girl it was still pretty cold. Luckily, I had asked Santa Claus for some good boots so that my feet would not get so cold. We did get a slight rain during the march but not much. Thank you to all the courts and individuals that pledged money for my participation.

By the time you receive this letter, all courts should have elected the delegates for the National Convention in Minnesota. If you have not sent in the list to National Headquarters, please do that immediately. If you have any questions, please remember the chain of command. We are all here to help you in any way we can. If your court has sent an amendment to the bylaws or a resolution, please be sure to send a copy of the amendment to the bylaws or resolution to your State Regent for her records.

We are all looking forward to seeing many of you at the convention in Minnesota. All Catholic Daughters of the Americas members in Minnesota are preparing for your visit. Excitement is building as they prepare. It seemed so far away and, yet, now here it is right around the corner. Pack your suitcase and get ready, we will see you in Minnesota.

Most Merciful Father, we commend our departed into Your hands....

Tiva Sanchez..... Past Texas State Treasurer, #1994

Esperanza Bettenhauser...Court Adolph Marx, #1988, Brownsville

Amy White...Court Immaculate Heart of Mary, #1884, Conroe

Margie Hrabina...Court Mary St. John, # 2197, Baytown

Joyce Holster....Court Holy Family #2060, Missouri City

Delia Carreno...Court St. Jude Thaddeus, #1770, Alice

Marie Poche...Court Mother of Unity, #2292, Houston

Edna Sodolak...Court Queen of Angels, #1538, Wallis

Marianne Williams...Court Queen of Angels, #1538, Wallis

Josephine Grigar...Court Queen of Angels, #1538, Wallis



MESSAGES FROM YOUR TEXAS STATE OFFICERS

Court Development/Membership

Carolyn Bachmann-First Vice State Regent

I hope your holidays were a blessed and merry time for family and friends. Now that the holidays are over the courts are preparing their calendars for the up coming events for 2006. I want to remind all the courts to include some form of membership drive incentives. All courts received information in the Regents' Packet about the two-year membership contest that could win your court money prizes to lower your court dues. Regents, I ask you to appoint a membership chairman to work on receiving new ladies to your court.

The State Regent recently sent out the Circle of Love report forms and in this packet was a flyer on "March Membership Madness." National has asked all states to undertake a statewide membership drive. Texas has selected the month of March. The State is asking all courts to have some form of membership drive to get as many new members as possible. New members can benefit your court in many ways. March is here so get blowing like the March wind and increase your membership.

Leadership

Sheila Martinka, Second Vice State Regent

By now you have or will be electing a Nominating Committee which means that local court elections are just around the corner. District Deputies, please get with your courts and officers if you have not already done so and start looking at dates for new officers' training. It will be here before you know it! Please contact me for available dates as there are a few districts that are already on the calendar. Please feel free to call me at 713-946-5847 or email me at smartinka@earthlink.net

Memorial Scholarship

Sheila Martinka, Second Vice State Regent

Well, the deadline for the Memorial Scholarships has past and I am pleased to say that I received 169 entries from all over the state of Texas. Soon you will be hearing about the winners.

Just a reminder that when you send in your request for more cards either by phone (713-946-5847) or via e-mail at smartinka@earthlink.net please remember to include the number of cards you are requesting for the court. This way you do not receive too few or too many. Hmm, is there such a thing as too many?! Thanks to all of you for your continued support with this program.

Dues and Assessments

Carolyn Malik, State Secretary

Thank you so much for all the Christmas greetings, mass enrollments and good wishes extended to me during the recent Christmas season. May the spirit of the season continue in all your hearts during this year and always.

- PLEASE do not change the number of members on your State dues bills that you are billed for when sending your remittance in to the State. The State court bills according to the number of members that are listed on the rolls at National office. We do receive a copy of your National dues bills for the State files. Changing your membership numbers from the number billed on the statement creates credits or amounts due on your account and this causes much confusion. Then we have to notify you of the difference. With postage steadily increasing, this is an unnecessary expense for your court and for the State court.
- Always include your CDA court's number on any checks sent in to the State.
- Membership rosters for the local courts are to be requested from the National office at 10 West 71st Street, New York, New York 10023. You may also request a current membership roster by e-mail at this address: CDofANatl@aol.com.
- Membership address changes need to be sent to the National office at the above address and to the State.
- REMEMBER to make your checks payable to the CDA Texas State Court for all checks sent in to the State. This

also includes the donations to the national projects. You may make a notation in the memo section to designate the purpose for the check.

- DON'T FORGET to have two signatures on your court checks.

Thanks to all the courts for sending in your newsletters to the State officers. It is great to read about all the tremendous works that you are doing in service to our God.

KEEP UP YOUR GOOD WORKS FOR OUR LORD AND HIS MOTHER!

Carolyn Malik
State Secretary
P.O. Box 243
Shiner, TX 77984

WEAR YOUR ROBE PROPERLY!

Carol Malik, State Secretary

With all the district meetings going on right now, we would like to remind you about the proper protocol for wearing robes. Wearing the robes properly shows respect and pride in our CDA organization. I want to remind you about some of the do's and don'ts of wearing robes. Please forward this information to all the officers in your local courts. District Deputies, please review this information with the local court officers prior to the district meetings.

DO'S-----

- Wear white shoes.
- Hem your robe to measure 11" from the floor while wearing white shoes.
- Press the hemline before wearing the robe.
- Inspect your robe to see that it is clean.
- Wear robe in procession ONLY.

DON'TS-----

- No earrings or necklaces showing.
- No collars showing when robe is zipped up.
- No slacks – ever.
- No dresses, skirts showing under robe.
- No walking around in robes – only in procession. As soon as you leave the church, remove your robe and carry it folded over your arm.
- No purses, bags, fanny packs under or over robes.
- No corsages, nametags, nor membership pins on your robe.

- Do not cut the hemline on your robe. The next officer to have your position may need the extra length.

I encourage you to adhere to the proper protocol for wearing robes. It will definitely make your ceremonies more impressive.

Dollars and Cents

Peggy Rosales, State Treasurer

Happy New Year! 2006 is off and running! I have attended several Receptions of New Members, District Meetings and enjoyed them all. It was so wonderful to see some CDA sisters at the State Retreat and be able to share in the deepening of our faith together.

Quarterly tips:

- Court checks need to have the Court Number printed on the check along with the city or town where your Court meets. Please remember that the time to do this is when you reorder your checks. Why do you need to do this? It makes it easier for us not to have to look up which court you are when posting payments and making the deposits; it's also a way for us to double check the Court name and the Court number.
- **Again, I'm going to stress this – Court checks must have two signatures on them. We are going to start returning checks for the second signature and this could be a delay in registration for activities or dues.**
- When making Court donation checks out for National Projects, Juarez Mission School, Memorial Scholarship, State Projects (MOM), etc... Please make them **payable to Texas State Court or CDA Texas with a notation in the memo area of the check (left bottom of the check) what it is for.**

“There are only two duties that our Lord requires of us: the love of God and the love of our neighbor... (St. Teresa of Avila) May the Lenten season bring a renewed spirit to us all.



Nominations and Elections

Loraine Hilscher, State Parliamentarian

The Financial Secretary should prepare a list of all members in arrears for dues before March 1st and give a copy to the Regent prior to the election. Only members in good standing, whose dues are no more than three months in arrears, are eligible to serve on the nominating committee; to be elected to office; and permitted to vote.

Nominating Committee

A nominating committee of three (3) or five (5) members shall be elected at the Court's March, 2006 meeting. No member may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms on the committee. The committee shall be elected by nominations from the floor and not suggestions from the Regent or the Board. The three or five candidates receiving the most votes are elected. The one receiving the most votes may serve as chairman or the committee may select its own chairman. The remaining candidates will serve as alternates according to their rank (the number of votes received).

The Chairman should call the nominating committee together as soon as possible following election to select nominees for office. The nominating committee submits the name of one candidate for each office: Regent, Vice Regent, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer. If, however, the committee is unable to secure a **qualified** candidate for office, the office is reported as vacant and the vacancy is filled with nominations from the floor. Members of the nominating committee may, also, be nominated for office.

Election of Officers

Officers are elected by ballot vote unless there is only one nominee for an office in which case a voice vote may be taken. Elections are held at the regular business meeting of the Court in May, and elected officers serve a two year term or until a successor is elected.

Written notice must be given to the Regent in sufficient time to notify the members, at least ten (10) days prior to the election.

Committee Report and Election

The chairman of the nominating committee reports by addressing the chair, "Worthy Regent" waits for recognition and says, "The nominating committee reports: For Regent (name), for Vice-Regent (name), for Recording Secretary (name), etc." The report is handed to the Regent who reads the report again. The Regent then calls for nominations from the floor saying: "Nominations from the floor are now in order. (name) has been nominated for Regent. Are there any further nominations? (name) has been nominated for Vice Regent. Are there any further nominations?" Follow the same procedure for each office. The regent then says: "Are there nominations for any office?" (pause) The Regent then proceeds with the voting process.

An officer not receiving a majority vote **cannot be dropped**. Voting must be repeated until a candidate receives a majority vote; however, a candidate may withdraw her name.

Members who abstain from voting must not be asked to vote. Members have a right to vote but are not required to vote.



MESSAGES FROM YOUR TEXAS STATE CHAIRMEN



Read Across America...

Did your Court participate in the Read Across America Program? Have you sent in the report? If you did not send in your report, please do so as soon as possible even if your Court did not participate. The report forms were mailed to the Court Regents. If you have questions, need additional information, or a copy of the report, just let me know. Thank you for your participation in this program!

Cynthia Novak

Read Across America Chairman

777 E. Eblin

La Grange, TX 78945

979-968-4072

cynovak@verizon.net - **Please note this is a new email address.**

Missions of Mercy

Lillian Hansen, Chairman

Cathy Bittner, Co-Chairman

Our Lady of Guadalupe Maternity Shelter (DALLAS)

Since the last state newsletter announcing this new missions of mercy project, many courts have responded with gifts of diapers, tissues, toiletries, baby blankets, toys, and even two baby beds. All items, as well as the checks for other essentials, are welcome. Keep up the good work!! They could use booties and any kind of newborn needs items together with maternity clothes and women's personal hygiene products. Additionally, the shelter does help these young mothers establish residences and look for jobs, so women's clothing, toiletries, and household goods are always welcome.

If your court is planning a trip to the shelter or planning to mail packages please call one of our CDA contact persons in Dallas to make arrangements. They are:

Randa Gonzales (972-896-5253) randag13@hotmail.com

Cleo Smith (972-380-9333) smithcleo@hotmail.com

If your court would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check out to the Texas State Court and mail it to State Secretary, Carolyn Malik, at P. O. Box 243, Shiner, TX 77984. Please write "Our of Guadalupe Maternity Shelter" on the memo line.

CASA JUAN DIEGO (HOUSTON)

Casa Juan Diego was founded by Mark and Louise Zwick 25 years ago to serve refugees and the poor with corporal and spiritual Works of Mercy. It receives no governmental subsidies and is funded entirely by voluntary contributions. From one small house it has grown to eleven buildings used for the following:

- Safe houses for women and children, especially pregnant or battered women and their children
- Assistance for paralyzed and seriously ill immigrants
- Temporary shelter for men
- Houses for sick and crippled men
- Casa Maria Social Service and Medical Center
- Dorothy Day Medical and Dental Center

Mark and Louise Zwick tell us that the Catholic Daughters have made a difference in the lives of the very poor and homeless who pass through their mission. Casa Juan Diego helps people to get on their feet by finding them a place to live and get them jobs. They welcome any and all donations including old furniture, mattresses, cleaning supplies, kitchen supplies, alarm clocks, wheel chairs, and especially personal toiletries for men. Contact them as follow:

Mark and Louise Zwick
4818 Rose, Houston, Texas 77007
(correspondence or checks should be sent to P. O. Box 70113, Houston, Texas 77270)
713-869-7376

Missions of Mercy Contact Information

Cameron Park Colonia

Packages:
San Felipe De Jesus Church
2215 Rancho Viejo
Brownsville, TX 78526

Checks:
Payable to: San Felipe De Jesus Charity Account
Memo: Social Services
Mail to: Fr. Mike Seifert
San Felipe de Jesus Church
P. O. Box 8093
Brownsville, TX 78526

Gifts for the Unborn, Inc.

11305 Alhambra Drive
Austin, TX 78759-2885
512-345-2885

Casa Juan Diego

P. O. Box 70113
Houston, TX 77270

Send packages via UPS to:
Casa Juan Diego
4818 Rose St.
Houston, TX 77007

Our Lady of Guadalupe Maternity Shelter

Send checks payable to:

Texas State Court
Memo: Our Lady of Guadalupe Maternity Shelter

Mail to:

Carol Malik
State Secretary
P.O. Box 243
Shiner, TX 77984

To mail goods or visit shelter contact:

Randa Gonzales (972-896-5253)
Randag13@hotmail.com

Cleo Smith (972-380-9333)
smithcleo@hotmail.com





C D Angels

C. D. Angels can be anyone and anyone can nominate an angel. Angels are women who are doing their regular jobs in an extraordinary manner, women who have gone “above and beyond” and have given special service to a court, or women who have been quietly reliable and trustworthy whom you would like to recognize for their faithfulness. Be creative, and let’s recognize the **Caring, Devoted, Absolutely terrific** women of Texas. Send your nominees to: State Regent Olga Samaniego, at: olgasamaniego@hotmail.com or 915-593-6653.

Two years after becoming a CDA member in Brownsville, **Ester Tobin** became a regent and district deputy simultaneously for five years. Following this she became the Publicity Chairman for her court, Bishop Adolph Marx, 1988, and had her photographs and articles were published in several Southwest newspapers. Following this she was appointed to the Texas State Court as the State Public Relations Chairman, and also served as Publicity Chairman of her local court for eighteen years. Ester wrote a book called The Public Relations HINT HANDBOOK, which she used during her workshops every two years to train district deputies in public relations. Ester received an Award for Excellence in Public Relations from the State Court. After she covered several issues on an impoverished community called Cameron Park, she sent her articles to SHARE, which eventually resulted in making Cameron Park a Mission of Mercy for CDA. For her efforts, Ester won The State Regent’s Award from the Texas State Court. A third award, for publications throughout the United States was presented by the National Court for outstanding service in covering the First Habitat Build in Corpus Christi by the Texas State Court. Outstanding job, Ester, Angel Extraordinaire!

Each month Court Our Lady of Grace #1734, Rowena, sponsors a Senior Citizens’ Game Afternoon. **Pat Lange, Dorine Moeller, and Bernice Fuchs** are the three “angels” of the Quality of Life Committee who really make this event happen. They give unselfishly of their time, and talent to make sure that everyone is having a good time and taking part in the activities. To make it even more special, each game afternoon begins with a wonderful meal, planned by these ladies.

Cynthia Cummings of Court St. Laurence #2402, Sugar Land, Texas is one of our special angels. As one of the Charter Members of our Court, she has been very involved, serving as Vice-Regent, and also as Recording Secretary. Cynthia has also served on several committees including fundraising, legislative, and membership. As membership chairman, she helped recruit several new members. Recently, she proposed having “Prayer Partners” (sort of like secret pals) within the court, as a way of getting better acquainted with the newer members of the court. Whenever there is an activity, we know that if Cindy is called upon she will be there with a smile!! We think Cindy is absolutely a Caring, Devoted, and Absolutely terrific woman of Texas.

Court St. Anthony of Padua #2486 has an Angel, too. **Jean Davidson**. Our beginning in 2001 began with Jean as our first Regent enhancing the Spirit throughout the women of our parish. A woman with the Gift to Give to the Community Nursing Home, Christian Care Center, and especially to many, many parishioners...She spreads her wings and flies! Director of the Kitchen at St. Anthony she devotes her time to serving not only in a source of meal from “her” kitchen but food from our Lord. An Angel’s touch that will mend whatever is broken. Struck by cancer last year, she endured. We know that the Lord has given us our Angel, Jean Davidson, to teach and we plan to learn.

Cheri Yadon, from Court Lady of the Twelve Stars, #2529, Ft. Davis is not only our court Regent but is a mother, a friend, a substitute teacher, a lector, a solo singer at most of our Masses, and a cleaning Angel for our church. She is very knowledgeable about our Catholic religion and teaches Confirmation classes. This is just a short list of Godly things that she does. She does so much for CDA, church, and community to list them all. Thank God for our Angel, Cheri Yadon.

Madeline Seidel and Sr. Roberta Thompson visit two prisons weekly. One is in Bronte and the other here in San Angelo, Court Santa Angela #1736. Sister is not in good health but saves herself for these visits. Madeline is her driver and support system, one hundred percent. Another Angel is **Ruth Halfmann**, our district deputy, who is always willing to serve, as you well know. Ruth works the night shifts at the hospital, and at times these are twelve-hour shifts. She is always willing to go and do for CDA whenever asked, even if she has had minimal sleep. Please consider these women as true Angels.

Liz Kallus, member of Court #1962 in La Grange is somehow involved in just about every activity we have going on in the court. She is especially good at keeping the rest of the court informed by putting stuff in the newspaper of the court's activities. I guess you can say she is a good PR person. Liz is a very caring person and an asset to the court.

Henriette Jalowy is a 39- year member of St. Bernadette, Court #1108, East Bernard. She has been Regent for four terms and served as District Deputy. She has been the Scrapbook Chairman for the past five years and is very responsible for the awards we receive at the State Conventions. Henriette is currently the Raffle Chairman, Publicity Chairman, Soup Supper Chairman, and State Publicity Chairman. She is considered to be a true "Yes" woman who has found the beautiful balance of faith, family and service. She will bake, make phone calls, serve at church and attend every meeting. Henriette is a tremendous asset to our court, CDA, and the church.

Anges Minks is a 30- year member of St. Bernadette, Court #1108, East Bernard. She is the Cheers Chairman sending birthday, get well, sympathy, and thinking of you greeting cards to all the citizens in our town. Month after month she becomes the ecumenical arms of our court and in the simplest way she performs those simple acts of kindness on behalf of each member of St. Bernadette. Anges is the State Memorial Scholarship Chairman, and serves on the annual Scholarship Committee. She is a perfect attendance. Agnes is readily available whenever called upon and a sincere gentle lady.

Patsy Krenek is a 20- year member of St. Bernadette Court #1108, East Bernard. She is a Past Regent and during her term she was instrumental in the development of our JCDA Court and today she is still the advisor of an active 33 member Junior Court. She was honored with the Saint Anne Medal of Recognition at the 2005 JCDA Convention in Austin. Patsy served as Publicity chairman for our main fundraiser, the Chicken Noodle and Sandwich Dinner/Raffle. She is the Host chairman for the Net Team when they come to East Bernard, and now serves as co-director of our newly implemented Generations of Faith program. She takes the youth to District 10 conferences and engages the youth to participate in a variety of Parish and CDA functions. Patsy is a faithful member of St. Bernadette who gives 100% to each endeavor.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.....

Court Father Tom Billimek, #2425, Los Fresnos.....10

Court Our Blessed Mother, #1731, El Paso.....50

Court Our Lady of the Roses, # 2482, Pasadena.....15

Court Our Lady of Grace #1734, Rowena.....50

Court Mary, Mother of God, #2084, Hempstead.....32

Court Immaculate Heart of Mary, #1884, Conroe...44

Court St. Bridget, #2269, Longview.....21

Court St. Helen, #2330, Pearland16

Court Annunciation, #1962, La Grange....40

Courts In Action



SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

- Ct. Regina Coeli, #1959**, Houston is still making rosaries and they held a Grotto Rosary in December.
- Ct. St. Paul, #1604**, Shiner held a pro-life Mass and Novena for Life.
- Ct. Father Tom Billimek, #2425**, Los Fresnos did Stations of the Cross and hosted a living rosary at the church.
- Ct. Mary, Mother of God, #2084**, Hockley said a rosary in Honor of the Immaculate Conception.
- Ct. Our Lady, #2337**, Farmers Branch attended a Corporate Communion.
- Ct. Immaculate Mary, #2134**, Angleton held a memorial service for deceased members.
- Ct. Our Mother of Peace and Unity, #2487**, Livingston donated \$200.00 to their deacon. They also did a "Life Chain for the Unborn".
- Ct. Christ the King, #1750**, Houston attended pro-life Mass at St. Rose.
- Ct. Mother Seaton, #2513**, Keller held a Eucharistic Retreat.
- Ct. Mother of Grace, #1906**, Pasadena take Communion to their aging members. They completed a quilt for Sister Felice from St. Pius.
- Ct. Our Lady Queen of the Apostles, #2391**, support First Friday Adoration.
- Ct. Padre Isidoro Cavazos, #2019**, Kingsville presented the priests and sisters from four churches with a Christmas monetary gift.
- Ct. Mother of Unity, #2292**, Houston gave financial assistance to a deacon.
- Ct. Kraljica Mira, #2308**, Spring helped sponsor their seminarian.
- Ct. Sacred Heart of Divine Mercy, #2469**, Pattison is hosting a retreat for District 10.
- Ct. Our Lady of Apostles, #2391**, Austin held their Lenten Retreat at Cedarbrake.

EDUCATION

- Ct. St. Paul #1604**, Shiner sent school supplies for the Colonias.
- Ct. Prince of the Apostles, #1787**, San Antonio helped with St. Pius X schoolbook fair.

YOUTH

- Ct. Mary, Mother of God, #2084**, Hockley donated toys for a toy drive.
- Ct. Our Lady of Grace, #1734**, Rowena provided items for "Sweet Bingo" for St. Joseph Youth Group.
- Ct. Mary St. John, #2197**, Baytown worked the Confirmation reception.
- Ct. Mary Immaculate, #1719**, Dallas donated toys to White Rock Center of Hope, Bryan House, and Buckner Orphanage.
- Ct. Louise, #209**, Fort Worth helped with the Holy Family School Fall festival.
- Ct. Maria Galante, #115**, Austin provided food for the Child Protective Services meeting.
- Ct. Ave Maria, #2001**, Houston is having a Birthright Baby Shower.
- Ct. Mercy of Jesus, #2407**, Tomball hosted the first Reconciliation reception for 154 children and their families.
- Ct. Mother Seaton, #2513**, Keller provided and served dinner to children and parents at the Ronald McDonald House.
- Ct. St. Helen, #2330**, Pearland purchased Christmas for 15 children.
- Ct. Mother of Grace, #1906**, Pasadena assisted the KC with the annual Children's Christmas Party.
- Ct. The Lady of Twelve Stars, #2529**, Ft. Davis dressed children to represent the Nativity for the Christmas parade and they also donated gifts for needy children.
- Ct. Ancillae Mariae, #1886**, Crosby donated money to the Guadalupe Maternity Shelter.
- Ct. Mary Queen of the Snows, #1588**, Columbus is doing its Annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Quality of Life

- Ct. Regina Coeli, #1959** Houston collected pantry items for the needy.
- Ct. Immaculate Mary, #2134**, Angleton made cookies for the County Detention Center for Women.
- Ct. St. Paul, #1604**, Shiner made 130 cookie bags for nursing homes residents, shut-ins, etc.

Ct. Our Lady of the Lakes, #2220, Austin donated 270 pairs of socks for St Louis and St. Vincent de Paul Society. They also volunteer for the mobile fishes and loaves. Gave gifts to the Maywood Maternity Home.

Ct. St. Isadora, Patron of the Land, #2340, Sneedville donated baby items to Pregnancy Center in Rosenberg.

Ct. Immaculate Heart of Mary, #1884, Conroe made cookies for a nursing home social.

Ct. Antillean Maria, #1886, Conroe donated money for Veterans Day signs, to Sacred Heart for rosaries, and to the VA hospital for a party.

Ct. Queen of Angels, #1538, Wallis did a money tree for Meals on Wheels.

Ct. Mercy of Jesus, #2407, Tomball used a giving tree to make it possible to help children, nursing home residents, and Carmelite Sisters.

Ct. St. Helen, #2330, Pearland donated \$500.00 to St. Helen's Bazaar and will chair the dessert booth.

Ct. Mother of Grace, #1906, Pasadena provided desserts for the KC fish fry. They also donated cookies for St. Pius Bake sale.

Ct. Padre Isadora Cadiz's, #2019, Kingsville raised \$13,133.00 for St. Martins Church. They also collected and wrapped gifts for nursing home bingo.

Ct. Mother of Unity, #2292, Houston delivered desserts to the Briarwood Nursing Home. They also gave \$100.00 to St. Luke's Thanksgiving Drive.

Ct. Our Lady of Twelve Stars, #2529, Ft. Davis donated a food basket to a family and gave \$100.00 to the food pantry.

FUNDRAISERS

Ct. Joseph of Honey Creek, #2660, Spring Branch held a tamale sale.

Ct. Mary, Mother of God, #2084, Hockley had a bake sale.

Ct. Our Blessed Mother, #1731, El Paso held a yard sale and made \$300.00.

Ct. Our Lady, #2337, Farmers Branch held a Craft Show.

Ct. Our Lady of the Lakes, #2220, Austin held a tamale sale.

Ct. St. Bernadette, #1108, East Bernard held a chicken soup supper.

Ct. Our Lady of Grace, #1734, Rowena worked on two quilts for raffle and auction at 83rd Fall Festival.

Ct. Immaculate Mary, #2134, Angleton held a raffle.

Ct. St. Isidore, Patron of the Land, #2340, Needville held a chicken salad sandwich and bake sale.

Ct. St. Ann, #369, Victoria had a games party and sold Stations of the Cross Rosaries.

Ct. Immaculate Heart of Mary, #1884, Conroe held a successful Christmas boutique.

Ct. Mary Immaculate, #1719, Dallas had a successful garage sale.

Ct. Our Mother of Peace and Unity, #2487, Livingston is selling cookbooks.

Ct. Holy Family Court, #2060, Missouri City held a Coushatta fundraiser.

Ct. St. Helen, #2330, Pearland made \$2,107.00 on their bake sale.

Ct. Kraljica Mira, #2308, Spring is having a Mardi Gras family fun night.

Ct. Sacred Heart of Divine Mercy, #2469, Pattison is having a Casino Night and steak dinner.

Ct. St. Michael, #559, Weimar held a silent auction and country store.

PROJECTS

Ct. St. Joseph of Honey Creek, #2260, Spring Branch makes cookies for the nursing home.

Ct. St. Paul, #1604, Shiner makes gifts for the unborn.

Ct. Our Blessed Mother, #1731, El Paso prepared food for Annunciation House and held a shower for the Gabriel Project.

Ct. Our Lady of St. Hyacinth, #2361, Deer Park uses Kroger cards.

Ct. St. Bernadette, #1108, East Bernard added The Giving Tree to their list of 105 projects.

Ct. Prince of the Apostles, #1787, San Antonio bakes cakes for retired priests at Padua Place.

Ct. Mother of Unity, #2292, Houston mailed off 20 bags to Gifts for the Unborn.

Ct. Sacred Heart of Divine Mercy, #2469, Pattison donated food to the food pantry.

QUALITY OF LIFE/ FELLOWSHIP

Ct. Regina Coeli, #1959, Houston had a Sweetheart Ball.

Ct. Mother of Charity, #1713, Houston had a fun trip to Coushatta,

Ct. St. Bridget, #2269, Longview had a Bunko Party.

Ct. Louise, #209, Forth Worth planned a Valentine party for OLVV Sisters.

State Calendar

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|-------------------------|--|
| March 4, 2006 | JCDA Commission Meeting, Baytown |
| March 5, 2006 | Multi-District Meeting, 11 and 37 Eagle Lake |
| March 9, 2006 | Meeting, District # 14, Edna |
| March 11, 2006 | 15 th Anniversary JCDA Court Padre Pedro Bard #2016 |
| March 11, 2006 | Court Retreat, Pattison |
| March 11, 2006 | 5 th Anniversary of Court Our Lady of the Roses #2482 |
| March 11-12, 2006 | Institutions of New Courts |
| March 18, 2006 | 10 th Anniversary Court Father Tom Billimek #2425 |
| March 18, 2006 | Multi-District Meeting, 30 and 12, Yorktown |
| March 18, 2006 | Institution of New Court |
| March 25, 2006 | Multi-District Meeting, New Braunfels |
| March 26, 2006 | District Meeting #8 Orange |
| Mar. 31-Apr 1, 2006* | Board Meeting, Austin |
| April 1, 2006 | 40 th Anniversary, Ct. Annunciation, La Grange |
| April 1, 2006 | Past Regents' Luncheon, Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston |
| April 8, 2006 | Meeting, District #15, Laredo |
| April 8, 2006 | Multi-district Retreat, East Bernard |
| April 8, 2006 | Multi-District Meeting, 7 and 44, Austin |
| April 22, 2006 | 50 th Anniversary, Ct. Our Blessed Mother #1731 El Paso |
| April 29, 2006 | District Meeting, San Benito |
| April 29, 2006 | District Meeting, #51 New Caney |
| April 29, 2006 | Installation of JCDA Court in San Antonio |
| May 5-7, 2006 | 102 nd K of C Convention, Dallas |
| May 13, 2006 | 15 TH Anniversary, Our Lady of the Roses |
| May 16, 2006 | 50 th Anniversary, Ct. Our Lady of Grace #1734, Rowena |
| June 9-11, 2006* | Board Meeting and Financial Review, Shiner |
| June 24, 2006 | Multi-district officers' training, New Braunfels |
| July 17-21, 2006 | National Convention, Minnesota |
| August 19, 2006 | Officer's training, District #38 |
| September 30, 2006 | District Meeting, Sugar Land |
| September 22-24, 2006** | Board Meeting and State Retreat, San Angelo, Texas |

* State Board members may be able to attend activities in the immediate area.

** Please do not schedule any activities that conflict with these dates.

F Y I...

The CD that was played at the Retreat during the "Healing Time" was Gentle Sounds, an instrumental by Carey Landry. One of the places it can be found is: www.ocp.org (Oregon Catholic Press)

Can't afford your prescriptions? Try calling one of these numbers for assistance. These scripts are sometimes provided free or at a low cost. www.needymeds.com

1-888-4PPA-NOW (PIZER)

1-800-727-5400 (MERCK)

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court

Guidelines for Accepting Non-Practicing Catholic Women As Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas In the State of Texas

PREFACE: The State Chaplain, Clergy Consultant, and members of the State Board are often asked whether “non-practicing” Catholic women can be accepted as members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. We felt it necessary to prepare a standard response to this question for all officers and members of CDA courts within the State of Texas.

The bylaws of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas were amended at the national convention in Tampa, Florida, when Grace Rinaldi was National Regent, to allow Catholic women who are divorced and remarried outside of the Church to be members of the organization under some conditions. The discussion began while Edna Jane Nolte was the National Regent and was based upon statements made by Pope John Paul II and upon the recommendation of the National Chaplain, Most Reverend William G. Curlin, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington.

We hope this information will help clarify existing confusion and foster “Unity and Charity” within the CDA courts of Texas.

I

Requirements for membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas are covered by ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP in the bylaws of the organization. ARTICLE III, Section 1 – MEMBERSHIP states,

“Catholic lay and religious women, 18 years of age and older, who love and support the Church and desire to participate in social and charitable activities, shall be eligible for, and entitled to, membership in THE ORDER.”

The present wording was recommended by the National Chaplain at the time, Most Reverend William G. Curlin. In a letter to the National Regent, Miss Edna Jane Nolte, dated March 26, 1993, the bishop wrote the following:

“I am writing in reply to your question concerning the CDA accepting women who are divorced as members of the Catholic Daughters.

I think it is important that we are mindful that divorced Catholics are not automatically guilty or have personal blame; oftentimes they are the innocent party. As such they are entitled to participate in the full sacramental life of the Church.

The question of Catholics who are divorced and are remarried outside the Church is another matter. As a priest I have always encouraged them to attend Mass and to participate in the social and charitable activities of the Church. Many have proven edifying in their devotion to the poor, the sick and the homeless. Often they are the “victims” of a prior tragic marriage. While not approving of marriage outside of the Church, I believe it is important that we use every means available to encourage them to remain as close as possible to the Church. This is especially important when the possibility of a later remarriage in the Church may materialize. They need to see the Church as a loving mother. May I respectfully recommend that the requirement that an applicant be a “practicing Catholic” be changed to a Catholic who loves and supports the Church.

A pastor surely can verify the truth of this (love and support) on behalf of his applicant.....”

[from Bishop Curlin’s letter to Edna Jane Nolte dated 3/26/1993]

The following Vatican news article was also used to support this decision.

Parishes Urged to Welcome the Divorced and Remarried

VATICAN CITY – While Catholics who are divorced and civilly remarried cannot participate in the Eucharist, they must be welcomed as members of the church and encouraged to participate in parish life, Pope John Paul II said.

“To all those in need, the Lord, moved by mercy, reaches out simultaneously with the requirement of the truth and the oil of charity,” the pope said January 24 to members of the Pontifical Council for the Family. Members of the council, which includes prelates and married couples, were holding their primary assembly at the Vatican.

[Source from which this article was copied and the year of publication is unknown.]

II

When a Catholic woman who is divorced and remarried outside the Church is being considered for membership in CDA, we recommend that you follow these guidelines:

(1) Consult the pastor of the person being considered for membership or the court chaplain. CDA bylaws require that the applicant “love and support the Church and desire to participate in social and charitable activities.” Bishop Curlin, in the letter quoted above, stresses that the pastor is the one who “can verify the truth of this (love and support) on behalf of his candidate,” and usually has knowledge of their involvement in parish life. This initial step should take place before the proposed candidate is invited to be a member of CDA, and will help prevent embarrassment that may arise from dealing with such a sensitive issue.

(2) All CDA members MUST follow the rules of the Church. A member who is in an invalid marriage outside the Church is not allowed to receive the Holy Eucharist. A member or court officer should be an example for other Catholic women. Violation of Church law should not be tolerated under any circumstances.

(3) All qualified members of a CDA court are eligible to hold an office in the court. The temporary inability to participate in the sacramental life of the Church does NOT prevent members from holding office.

(4) Encourage members to visit with their pastor and discuss steps necessary to have invalid marriages annulled so their present marriage can be validated and they can once again participate in the Sacramental life of the Church.

(5) Educate your members on Church teachings regarding this issue. Court chaplains could address the topic during the “good of the order” portion of a meeting. This knowledge will ease some of the tension when your court welcomes new members who are “good” Catholics, but, because of circumstances, temporarily cannot receive the Eucharist.

(6) Do not judge others! This is a sensitive matter and often painful for those affected to talk about. CDA can be an instrument of healing for these members. Let’s practice our motto of “Unity and Charity” and leave judgment to the One who is worthy to judge and truly “knows our hearts.”

We hope these guidelines will help all CDA members in Texas better understand the rationale behind this change in our bylaws adopted at the National convention in Tampa, Florida (1996).



NATIONAL NEWS

Evangelization Project

The Evangelization Project is going strong! Many of you have had a chance to see these beautiful ornaments at district meetings and gatherings around Texas. Don't miss the chance to commemorate special occasions such as First Communions and Confirmations with one of these priceless gifts. They will be treasured for a lifetime! Forty percent of the sales price of each ornament goes directly to CDA! Twenty percent will go to the National Office, and the State and local courts share twenty percent of the proceeds for each ornament sold in Texas. To order or for more information, contact Glorious Gifts at 866-872-6635, or visit the CDA website at www.CatholicDaughters.org.

Two-Year Calendar

By now you should have received your two-year calendar from the National Office. Please consider supporting CDA with any donation possible.

National Convention

The 51st Biennial National Convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 17-21, 2006. We are looking forward to a wonderful time of learning and fellowship. The Headquarters for the Convention is the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis on Nicollet Mall. To make toll free reservations call: 1-800-233-1234. The next newsletter packet that comes to regents from the national office will be the convention packet. Please share that information with the members of your court.

Delegates

Your list of delegates and alternates to the National Convention must be sent to the National Office **postmarked no later than March 15, 2006**. Send your lists to:

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
10 West 71st Street
New York, NY 10023

Please remember to send a copy to the State Regent and to keep a copy for your files.

Travel

Travel arrangements to the National Convention may be made with All American Travel Agency, the official CDA agency for the convention. You may contact them at 1-800-732-7075.

Special Notice: Circle of Love

This year, Texas courts will need to fill out two sets of Circle of Love Forms. New National forms are being sent to each court regent. Courts are asked to fill out the forms and to send them to the same chairmen listed on the state forms. The chairmen will use the state forms for the state contests and the national forms to fill out the report to send to the national office. A complete list of all Circle of Love Chairmen including addresses and phone numbers is contained in the Regents' Resource Packet mailed to each local court regent in September 2005. For additional information please contact State Regent, Olga Samaniego at olgasamaniego@hotmail.com or 915-593-6653.



TEXAS STATE NEWS

CDA Registered Logos

If your court has not sent in a letter asking for permission to use the CDA Registered Logo on stationery and newsletters, etc., please send your request as soon as possible to:

Olga Samaniego, State Regent
1801 Billy Casper
El Paso, Texas, 79936

The second batch of permission letters will go out in March 2006.

Officers' Lists

Please remember to send in your officers' list as soon as officers are elected in May. Send them in even if all officers are re-elected. A new roster must be compiled in time for the 2006 Regents' Resource Packet, and your promptness is truly appreciated.

District Deputies

Please schedule your district meetings and special activities with the State Regent. We want to ensure that at least one State Officer is available to attend your meeting, and we cannot do that when we either do not receive advanced notice or there are too many scheduled at the same time. Scheduling in Texas is a big job; thank you for your help and support!!

Good of the Order

Short "Good of the Order" announcements will be printed in the State Newsletter if space is available. Please send your short announcement to State Newsletter Editor. Announcements will be printed on a first come, first served basis, and priority will be given to spiritual activities.

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 prayers 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 the Catholic Daughters of Texas will experience true repentance, forgiveness, and renewal this Lenten season, and
- That the Church, the Bride of Christ, will continue to affirm and encourage the ministry of women.

Olga Samaniego, State Regent

Congratulations to Our Two Newest Courts.....

Houston – Reina de la Paz, #2558
Regent: Carmen Bautista
3535 Slumber Lane
Houston, TX 77023
713-242-8066



Waco – St. Clare of Assisi, #2559 (Campus Court)
Regent: Corrina Gura
1721 S. 9th St.
Waco, TX 76706
847-951-8331
Corrina_gura@baylor.edu

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.....

Court Mary, Mother of God, #2084, and St. Katharine Drexel Parish of Hempstead, Texas, invite you to join us on Saturday, May 13, 2006 for a day of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will explore the unique relationship of Mary to all Christians both as our Mother and as our Guide to Her Son. Pre-registration, until April 7th will be \$15.00 per person. After April 7th, registration will be \$20.00. Lunch is included. Childcare for ages 1 year to 10 years will be available for \$5.00 per child. The keynote speaker will be Most Reverend Vincent Rizzotto, D.D.,JCL. Workshops in English and Spanish on Mary and the Rosary will be offered. The day will end with a Living Rosary, May Crowning, and Mass. For more information and registration forms, contact: St. Katherine Drexel Parish Office at 979-826-2275 from 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m. Monday thru Friday, or e-mail: Cheryl Thomas, D.D. #25, at stdcpt14@shsu.edu.

State Retreat

Christ the King Retreat Center
San Angelo, Texas, September 2006

Presenter: Father Chuck Gunti, OFM
San Jose Mission Friar Community, San Antonio, Texas

Room (two nights), Meals, and \$10.00 Registration Fee

Retreat Center \$ 108.00 per person – Single Occupancy
\$ 99.00 per person – Double Occupancy
\$ 50.00 Meals and registration only

Capacity 150

