

2006 National Convention, Minneapolis

By Henriette Jaloway

Two Catholic Daughters from Texas were elected to the National Board of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at its 51st Biennial National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Libby Ramirez of Victoria was elected National Regent-Elect. Duchess Collins of Sugar Land was elected one of nine National Directors.

More than 100 attendees from Texas included delegates, alternates, members, clergy, spouses, and guests.

Clergy from Texas attending the convention at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency, July 16-21, 2006, were Rev. Donald Ruppert, Texas State Court Clergy Consultant of East Bernard, and Father Roy Oggero of Sugar Land.

Texas State Regent Olga Samaniego of El Paso accepted a certificate for the State for winning second place in its division in the National Newsletter contest. Texas was also awarded certificates for outstanding participation in the following Circle of Love categories: Education, Leadership, Quality of Life, National Charitable Projects, and Legislation. The State Regent accepted a plaque for the State for having instituted the most new courts and a certificate for participation in *Read Across America*.

State officers from Texas included State Regent Olga Samaniego, El Paso; First Vice State Regent, Carolyn Bachmann, Scotland; Second Vice State Regent, Sheila Martinka, Pasadena; State Secretary, Carolyn Malik, Shiner; and State Treasurer, Peggy Rosales, Austin.

The theme of the convention was “Women of Faith and Vision.” Nearly 900 people attended from across the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Guam. The gathering liturgy and welcoming dinner and entertainment was Sunday, July 16th.

The convention officially opened Monday afternoon, July 17th, with National Regent M. Joan McKenna of Massachusetts presiding. During the week delegates elected new members to the National Board and debated, amended, rejected and passed resolutions and by-laws. Many reports were presented. They summarized goals reached, accomplishments, issues and events during the past two years.

The officers and members of New Mexico State—site of the 2008 Biennial National Convention—presented preliminary plans for the next convention and invited all to attend.

The hard-working State Regents who lead their states were honored at a State Regents Luncheon. The clergy were honored at a Clergy Brunch.

Guest speakers inspired, informed and motivated attendees. Keynote Speaker Mother Mary Agnes, Sister of Life, S.V., spoke movingly of the order formed by the late

Cardinal O'Connor and its tireless work on behalf of pro-life, a position supported by the Catholic Daughters. Marie Boneli, Court of Redeemer Angels #2426 in Mechanicville, Virginia, introduced three young members of the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas court there, and expressed the tremendous satisfaction one gets from working with "Juniors." Judy Kullman from St. Paul, Minnesota, motivated the audience with information about "T.G.I.S." (Thank God It's Sunday) The recipient of CDA's "Woman of the Year" Award, Mary Ann Kuharski of PROLIFE Across America, talked about the organization's billboard campaign and what it is like to raise 13 children.

Mass was celebrated daily by members of the clergy who attended the convention. Celebrants and homilists included Rt. Rev. Jack Ahern from Boston, CDA National Clergy Consultant; Bishop Victor Balke, Bishop of Crookston Diocese, Minnesota State Chaplain; Rev. Kevin O'Leary, State Chaplain of Massachusetts; Rev. Michael Schommer, State Chaplain of North Dakota; Rev. Dennis Dinan, Chaplain of Court Madonna #114, Port Jervis, New York.

The Mass of Installation was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Mary, Thursday afternoon, July 20th. The five newly installed national officers serving a two-year term are: National Regent, Claudia R. Bosch, North Dakota; National Regent-Elect (newly created position), Libby Ramirez, Texas; First Vice National Regent, Joanne Tomassi, Florida; Second Vice National Regent, Anne Nelson, Maryland; National Secretary-Treasurer, Shirley Seyfried, Minnesota.

These nine new National Directors were also installed: Duchess Collins, Texas; Teresa Kocer, South Dakota; Lois Nelson, Minnesota; Lucretia Coats, Maryland; Evelyn Saxton, Oklahoma; Margaret Bingham, Vermont; Lettie Calvetti, Pennsylvania; Lorryne Zimmerman, Oregon; Vicki Broussard, Louisiana.

An entertaining banquet concluded the evening. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated Friday morning before the attendees departed from Minneapolis.