

State and Territorial Conference ~ Bellville, Illinois

by Terrie Vacek



Photo, courtesy of Terri Beltran; L-R State Treasurer Terri Beltran, El Campo; State Secretary Becky Brown, Angleton; National Director Carolyn Bachmann, Scotland; First Vice National Regent Olga Samaniego, El Paso; State Regent Eve Trevino, Corpus Christi; Second Vice Regent Melodie Brunt, Texarkana.

Texas was well represented at the 2015 State and Territorial Officers' Conference hosted by the National Order of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas on July 16-19, Our Lady of the Snows, Bellville, Illinois.

The National Board hosts this conference biennially providing newly elected state and territorial officers valuable tools, guidance, and updated operating procedures. First Vice National Regent Olga Samaniego led the Membership training. National Director Carolyn Bachmann presented the Court Development training.

When asked what most impressed her about the conference, State Regent Eve Trevino said, *"I liked that the conference started with Holy hour and Mass which got us prepared for the training. They also included daily prayers and Mass each day of the conference. National CDA is on fire, and they passed it on to all of us. They asked that each state and territory work on court development and membership. We as Texans felt proud because we continue to lead the institution of new CDA and JCDA courts. The national officers and representatives provided excellent training. The states and territorial officers are now on fire and ready to take on our duties beginning with our Organizational Meetings."*

National Chaplain Reverend Matthew Kuhn gave a presentation on the importance of spirituality. Concerns, goals and objectives of the state courts, including those of today's church and society, as well as issues that affect the well-being of women and children were discussed. Other presentations included talks on Membership, Recruitment, Retention, Renewal, CDA on Fire, State Projects, JCDA, Public Relations, Communication, and setting goals. The Newsletter, Website, JCDA, Youth, Education, Father Bachman, and Campus Court Scholarship awards were presented.