



Golden State Tidings

2009 – 2011

*Let Us Be God's Justice and Mercy,
Hands and Feet of Christ*



Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives 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.

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State Regent, Susan Killian – 9389 Tangelo Avenue, Fontana, CA 92335
Editor, Bea Abshear – Publisher, Melody Ciaravino



STATE CHAPLAIN *Rev. Stephen Porter*

The word “Thanksgiving” is by the standards of English relatively new, being recorded first in the 17th century, and particularly in New England (1674 in Boston), where it was used exclusively in connection

with praying to God. Later (1704) it had crossed the Atlantic and was used in England with the same meaning (remember this is 72 years before the Revolution). By 1844, it was so well established in the new nation of the United States that the poet John Greenleaf Whittier wrote (somewhat tongue in cheek, methinks!) “When the grey haired New Englander sees around his Board, The old broken links of affection restored” (remembering that ‘Board’ was a common word for ‘table’). Clearly he was alluding to the Thanksgiving dinner, with the whole family in attendance, including those whose life and activities may not have been otherwise approved of by the family.

Thanksgiving – today, unless you belong to a church, it has lost its prayerful, conscious, link to God, but perhaps not entirely its link to some sort of divine providence. Most Americans, on this day, will, I think, say some sort of “grace” before feasting upon the traditional turkey and trimmings, even it’s just a thank you to those who were invited. But Christians, and particularly we Catholics, will want to be much

more specific and demonstrative in our Thanksgiving, not just at our ‘Boards’ groaning under the weight of the trimmings, but more precisely at the Church’s ‘Board’, otherwise know as the Altar.

At Mass we celebrate Eucharist, and as you all well know that in itself, from Greek, means Thanksgiving. But for what, and to whom? Jesus is the ‘host’ at the Eucharist, so it is him giving thanks to his Father in heaven for the opportunity he has to be the savior of the world. The priest presides *in persona Christi*, so the Mass is Christ uniting himself in his people with his father in the power of the Spirit. But Jesus is also the host given to us in the Mass so that we can eat and drink and live forever. And for that we are thankful; the Mass is also our Thanksgiving to Jesus for his salvific act of redemption. He is thanking his Father for being able to redeem us, and we are thanking him for actually redeeming us.

But is there more? Just as on Thanksgiving Day it is our American custom to gather the family, and to invite strangers to join our Board, so too the Mass is the gathering of God’s family, whether they be people we know already, or those we haven’t yet met. God invites all to his Board, and we offer Thanksgiving for friendships long made and new ones yet to be enjoyed. So we are thanking one another for being at Mass with us, as God is thanking us for accepting his invitation to eat and drink at his Board.

The center of our Catholic Daughters’ lives is the Eucharist, so our common action should be to give



thanks: “Come before the Lord giving thanks” (Psalm 95,2) and that means giving thanks for whatever and whoever God has placed in our lives. God’s Spirit will never lead us where God’s grace will not protect us. So as we celebrate with our friends and families this Thanksgiving, let us be thankful for the good, and the challenging, and pray that what challenges us will motivate us to respond with a desire to change. Let us be thankful for what we like in our world, as well as what we don’t like. Maybe some of what we don’t like is actually good, and would deepen our spiritual lives if we were but open to the change of acceptance. Let us be Catholic women (and men), Daughters (and sons) with hearts open to all, so that all might join us in the one true act of giving thanks: the Eucharist.

Blessings, Rev Steve Porter



Heavenly Father, on Thanksgiving Day
We bow our hearts to You and pray.
We give You thanks for all You’ve done
Especially for the gift of Jesus, Your Son
For beauty in nature, Your glory we see
For joy and health, friends and family.
For daily provision, Your mercy and care

These are the blessings You graciously share.
So today we offer this response of praise
With a promise to follow You all of our days. Mary Fairchild



STATE REGENT
Susan Killian



We enter the Advent Season praying with anticipation as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord. Those of you that went to State Convention saw that our previous State Chairman of Education, Angela

Parisi, was pregnant with my grand-daughter Isabella. The birth of Isabella has been a life-changing spiritual experience for our family. After what seemed like the longest nine months and a very stressful labor, on September 26th, the long-awaited birth of Isabella took place. The parents and grandparents were naturally very excited to see mom and baby were fine, so we thought. I left the hospital joyfully ready to join the San Bernardino Diocese

CDA ladies to pray the first monthly rosary, with one of the intentions being for the sanctity of life.

Only a couple of hours after Isabella’s birth she was whisked off to the Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The doctors gave the new parents a list of things they believed were wrong with Isabella. We were all in disbelief and heavy-hearted. Our State Chaplain and family friend, Fr. Steve, came and baptized baby Isabella. We were constantly on our knees in prayer as we waited and waited. Test after test and no answers to what was wrong with Isabella, but praise God all the tests were coming back negative. Finally after five days, on a Thursday, the doctors finally determined that Isabella had a breathing problem that would require surgery if they did not see improvement by Monday.

Angela asked that I contact family and friends to pray for a miracle. She and her husband, Nic, could not imagine frail Isabella undergoing surgery. Isabella’s great-aunt and uncle, Chuck and Diane Dinise, organized an hour of prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday night. Well, on Sunday afternoon, we witnessed a miracle! When Angela and Nic went to NICU, Isabella had miraculously been taken-off all breathing apparatus. It took about another week for Isabella to gain enough strength to be released from NICU. The new family is now doing great.

God is so mighty and awesome! I wanted to share this story with you, first to thank all those who were praying and believing that God would work a miracle in Isabella. Secondly, I mentioned that this birth was a life-changing spiritual experience for our family. We had all gotten so busy with every-day life and waiting for Isabella to be born, that we had deprived ourselves of recognizing the little miracles that take place each day. As you emerge yourself in prayer during the advent season, I pray the Lord will bless each of you so you will be able to see the little miracles that surround us each day.

Have a Prayerful Advent and a Blessed Christmas Season.

In Christ’s Peace and Love, Susan



Advent
Prepare the way for the
Lord!



**NATIONAL
REGENT-ELECT**

**NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

Dear Catholic Daughters
of the State of California,

As I set out to write this message, my mind was running in several directions and it was difficult to decide just which road to take. Our organization is such a gift to each of us as well as to the many people touched by our involvement. When you stop and think about our out-reach programs it is amazing just how far reaching we are.

In addition to touching the lives of so many people throughout the United States we also reach out to people around the world through Project Handclasp in which your state is so deeply involved as well as the **Smile Train**, one of our newest endeavors. I am sure that most of you have seen the advertisements for Smile Train in your local newspapers or magazines. Gazing on these pictures of the children's deformities is not an easy thing to do. However, it is much less difficult now that we, as Catholic Daughters, are involved in bringing hope to these children by providing the funding for their surgery. Imagine how many children have been given a chance at a normal life because of your generosity. The first year we were involved with Smile Train at the national level, we contributed \$25,000 which provided happy smiles for 100 children who previously had little hope for a normal life. Their deformities prevented them from eating and drinking properly, from talking properly and often from going to school. They were shunned by society in general and sometimes even by their own families.

And so I congratulate you for your generosity to this and other charities through the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Together we can make a difference in the lives of many.

On a different note, I just returned from a sight visit to the **Adam's Mark in Buffalo NY**, location of our **July 2010 National Convention**. First let me say I am glad we are not going in the winter as both of my visits, early December 2008 and late October 2009,

were met by freeze cold wet weather. We met with a representative of the hotel to finalize some of the details of the 2010 National Convention. This is a beautiful hotel and convention center located in downtown Buffalo NY near the marina. The hotel staff is ready and waiting to make our visit an enjoyable stay and one to remember. This was my second visit and each time they have gone out of their way to accommodate our every need. I am very excited as we work on the plans for this convention and I assure you it is one you do not want to miss. I hope you have started making plans to be in Buffalo in July 2010.

The convention will open on Wednesday, July 14th and conclude with the Appreciation Banquet Saturday July 17th. The Installation Mass will be at the beautiful St. Louis Church, an historic sanctuary not far from the hotel. And the best news is the seating capacity is more than large enough to accommodate all of our members and friends. There are lots of pre-convention tours and activities for those of you who choose to come a few days ahead of time. The November convention mailing is full of information about the convention including a tentative schedule. I hope many of you will be there to help continue to mold the Catholic Daughters into an outstanding organization. Your opinion and vote are important. Don't miss the opportunity to get involved.

Our **theme** this year, **"For In Him We Live, and Move and Have Our Being" (Acts 17:28)**, is one in which we are constantly reminded that God is the center of our being. It is through Him that all things happen. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and remember to keep Him in the center of your every celebration.

In Unity and Charity,
Joanne Tomassi, National Representative
National Regent-Elect

The Water Pistol

When my three-year old son opened the birthday gift from his grandmother, he discovered a water pistol. He squealed with delight and headed for the nearest sink.

I was not pleased. I turned to Mom and said, "I'm surprised at you. Don't you remember how we used to drive you crazy with water guns?" Mom smiled and then replied..."I remember!"



**FIRST VICE STATE
REGENT
Dorothy Parrillo**

As First Vice regent I am in charge of the State Court’s Fund Raisers. We have many beautiful items to sell and they are all reasonably priced.

However, before I continue on about our merchandise, let me give you some ideas regarding Fund Raisers for your Courts.

With Christmas quickly approaching you can always make **“Baskets of Cheer”** This same idea can also be used for Easter, Mother’s Day etc. For example,

- videos, popcorn, candy hot cocoa, marshmallows or even wine and called show time.
- purchase movie tickets plus a dinner for two, offer to have a Catholic Daughter ‘Baby Sit’ and call it “Date Night.”
- facial, manicure/pedicure. nail polish, body lotions, etc.
- bakers can get together and make a variety of home made cookies.
- There are many things you can do with these suggestion and have fun doing it.

Here’s another possible fund raiser for your Courts. It is to make **Fire Starters for fire places or wood stoves**. In order to begin, you must have on hand the following items:

1. Wax – old or half-burned candles can be used (ask your members for theirs as well)
2. Wood Shavings - use wood chips that go into the bottom of cages for hamsters or ask your local hardware/lumber store for the wood shavings they intend to throw out. (bring your own bag) These should be free.
3. Cupcakes papers – any size will do. However, the middle size is sufficient
4. Cupcake pans and old pots. Use really old. Cupcake pans which should match size of cupcake papers. Both these items can be found at garage sales.

Preparation: Line old cookie sheets with aluminum foil. Melt the wax from candles in old pot, which can

never be used again. When melted, pour the wax carefully (it is very, very hot) onto the cookie sheets and let it harden, as the wax it hardening, score it like a chocolate bar for easy breaking. When the time comes to make your fire starters, they can be broken into little pieces and re-melted.

To Make your Fire Starters.

- Fill the cupcake papers in the cupcake pan with wood chips
- On the stove is your melted wax. Using a metal ladle, scoop the wax and pour some into each cupcake paper until it fills. Set the pan aside to harden and start another pan.

Package the Fire Starters in with 12 in each plastic bag, tying them with a purple and gold ribbon. Also, attach a Thank you for your support of CDA”. They should sell for \$10.00 a bag.

Directions should be placed on the bag they’re sold in as follows: Put one or two Fire Starters on the floor of the fire place or in the wood stove. Lay small kindling across the top of the Fire-Starter. Light the cupcake paper with a match and when the kindling has caught on fire, add more medium size wood and then of course your regular logs.

Sales: You can sell them outside of Sunday Mass, or at a boutique, etc. With the cold damp weather around the corner, these should be a big seller.

These are ideas were passed down to me by other Courts and they have been very successful. Thanks to those beautiful Regents who shared their ideas with me.

The State Court has many beautiful items you can purchase as Christmas gifts for either yourselves or your friends. There are sweaters, sweatshirts, shirts, pens, badges, etc. Ask your Regent for an order form and shop. We also have our wonderful cookbooks for only \$10.00 each. They make great gifts for your hairdresser, manicurist, mail person and grandchildren or child’s teacher.

Happy Thanksgiving! May we all remember to Thank our Heavenly Father for His many Blessings.

Merry Christmas! May the Hope, Peace, and Love given to us by the birth of the infant Jesus be forever in our Hearts. May we always Honor Him.

Happy New Year! May God always be close to you. May happiness be yours. May Angels guard, protect you and be your guide. My God Always Bless each and every one of you.





**SECOND VICE
STATE
REGENT
Daphne Bernestine**

As your Second Vice State Regent, part of my duties is to keep track of membership of each Court. Membership for the CDA

organization is very important for it to grow and keep growing. Without the increase of membership we will not be able to function as a Local or State Court. So, it is very important that each Court have a membership drive to increase our membership.

The theme for the next two years will be ***”Soar Like Angels and Rise to the Challenge”***.

The **First Contest** will be from September 1, 2009 to February 15, 2010 and the **Second Contest** will be a cumulative contest from September 1, 2009 to April 15, 2011. The award will go to both the Local Court and the individual member who brings in the most new members during the time frame of the Contest.

(Note: Releases 5, 5A and 5B have more detailed information about the contests and a copy of the Angel Tally Form)

Regents, please make sure that the Financial Secretary sends the Angel Tally Form to me filled out with the name of the member who recruited the new member along with the New Member Application Form. Also, please make sure the New Member Application Form is attached to the Angel Tally Form. I have been receiving New Membership Application Forms that did not have the Angel Tally Form attached. Because there was no form attached, I was not able to give credit to anyone. Ladies, make sure everyone receives credit for bringing in a new member. I hope to see more of the Angel Tally Forms in the future. If you have any questions regarding the Contest, please contact me. Remember, let’s ***Soar Like Angels and Rise to the Challenge!***”

As a reminder to everyone, the local court’s membership report is online for you to review (www.catholicdaughterscalifornia.org.) You will now be able to see how many members each Court has and how many members have been deleted.

Please visit the website and make sure that the information for your Court is correct.

Membership is our #1 goal in all our Courts. We have to have membership drives in order for our Organization to continue to be very successful with our Love and with our Unity that brings us together and with the Charity that we give to each other. So, ladies, let’s make California the #1 state in bringing in new members to this wonderful organization.

Lord Put Courage Into Our Hearts

*Lord, put courage into our hearts,
and take away all that may hinder us from serving
you.*

*Free our tongue to proclaim your goodness, that all
may understand us.*

*Give us friends to advise and help us by working
together so our efforts may bear abundant fruit.
And, above all, let all of us constantly remember that
all our actions are in vain unless they are guided by
your hand.*

May the Peace of the Lord be with you all.



**STATE SECRETARY
Melody Ciaravino**

As I write this article, it is not yet the end of September but the year seems to be flying by. All those information packed newsletters that I’m receiving leave me awed by all the good work that CDA is doing all over the Great State of California! Newsletters are a wonderful way to keep in touch with all your members. Even members who can’t go to meetings can stay informed and can participate in other events when they receive timely and informative newsletters regularly. Keep up the good work!

Since taking office this summer I’ve been busy learning about being State Secretary. I was blessed to be able to spend several days at the State Officers Workshop in Belleville, Il in July. The National Officers shared the first draft of the new procedures manual and when it is finalized it will be



a very helpful resource for both the State and Local Court officers. In August the State Officers were able to meet with the District Deputies in Alta Loma and Sacramento for District Deputy training. It was wonderful getting to meet so many of our local leaders and attach faces to the names in the roster.

Soon we will all be preparing for the busy Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. I want to wish all of you and your families a blessed and joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.



STATE TREASURER
Rosemarie Thomson

As the days cool down and we move into the winter season, there are many Catholic Daughter activities that “heat up” – meetings, fund raisers, prayer groups and various activities to name a few things.

One very important thing that local courts need to do is conduct their Financial Review. District Deputy’s in California were provided training to know what their responsibilities are – one being to conduct a Financial Review two times a year. It was suggested that the District Deputies call the local Regent to set up a time and indicate what records and information needs to be verified so that the review can go quickly and smoothly.

Once these reviews are done and the District Deputy is satisfied that all records have been verified, it is very important that the financial review forms, only, are sent immediately to the State Regent, Second Vice State Regent and the National Office. Do not send checks with the financial review forms. An invoice will be sent to the Regent from both State and National. Dues are very important in terms of operation. Local, State and National cannot function effectively unless dues are paid promptly.

The California State Board decided to send out an invoice indicating the amount due from local courts and is payable upon receipt. The invoice from the National Office is also payable upon receipt. Remember that you do not need the vote of the Court to pay State and National dues.

District Deputies who attended the workshop were given addressed envelopes to make sure information is sent to the proper person. In California, State dues are to be sent to the 2nd Vice State Regent.

As State Treasurer, if I can be of any assistance to you regarding your record keeping, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me at 805-922-2404.

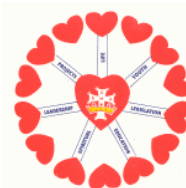


The Legend of the Poinsettia

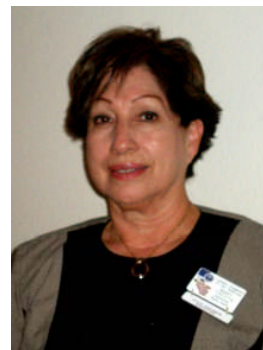
Legend has it that a poor child in Mexico having nothing to give the Christ Child on His birthday gathered some weeds into a lovely bouquet. the only gift he had to offer. When he brought his gift to the manger this simple weed was transformed into a brilliant red bloom - a poinsettia, now known as the beautiful Flower of the Holy Night.



MESSAGES FROM OUR STATE CHAIRMEN



Mary Tafoya
State Chairman
Education



My dear sisters in Christ as State Chairman of Education it will be my responsibility to keep you informed on all of the guidelines and deadlines for the Education contest; and the different scholarships available to all students, that may be interested in applying this year.

- National scholarship available to an eighth grade student transferring to a Catholic High School for \$500.00.
- National scholarship for an Eighth Grade Student entering the 9th grade in a public or Private High School for \$500.00.



- National also has available the Father Leonard Bachmann Graduate Scholarship for 2 students who have completed Undergraduate Studies. The First place winner will receive \$3,000. and the 2nd place winner \$1,000.

Note: More detailed information and applications can be found in the September 2009 Quarterly release from National CDA or can be found at www.catholicdaughters.org.

The themes for the 2010 Education contest are:

“THE JOYS OF GOD SURROUND US”
and
“THE JOYS LIFE BRINGS THROUGH OTHERS”

Each local court should make a special effort to sponsor the EDUCATION CONTEST. The themes selected for the contest encourage lively imagination and freedom of thought when student talent and application go hand in hand. The contest enables students of our communities, schools and CCD classes to compete and strive for awards while following certain fixed rules.

The categories for this year are:

**ART, ESSAY, POETRY, COMPUTER ART,
MUSIC and PHOTOGRAPHY**

The local court determines the amount of awards to be presented to the first three winning entries in each division, within each category.

1. All entries in all categories are to reflect the chosen theme.
2. All entries are to be the original imagination of the participant.
3. All rules apply to Local, State and National entries.
4. The Local Court’s name, number, city and state, as well as the Local Court Education Chairperson’s name and address should be on both the individual contest information sheet (art, essay, poetry, computer art, music, and photography) and on the “participant’s Cover Sheet, (white sheet) before contest information is distributed.
5. All Local Courts under the jurisdiction of a State Court send first place winners to the State Education Chairperson, using the “State

Court Education Contest Cover Sheet no later than March 15, 2010 (the yellow sheet).

Note: More detailed information and applications can be found in the September 2009 Quarterly release from National CDA or can be found at www.catholicdaughters.org.

If you should have any questions regarding the Education Contest please call me (559-739-7222).

Please regents make sure that all the rules are followed, it would be sad to see a child that could have won, but didn’t because the rules were not followed. Also, give a copy of the pages from the National release.

Have a Blessed Advent Season, and may the Christ Child Bless you and your families now and always.



Marcie Wilson
State Chairman
– **Membership/Extension**

As you receive this tidings message it should be Fall, and you are all in full swing!

When I started this Chairmanship I wasn’t sure what to expect. But I am overwhelmed with all the correspondence I have received from the courts on their activities, thank you.

Newsletters full of wonderful happenings of all the good work being done. Keep up the good work. And phone calls from Regents reporting on their Membership Drives, both already in progress with good results and those with future dates.

For those of you having difficulty getting members, perhaps it’s time to try something different: perhaps an Ice Cream Social, or maybe a bingo or bunko night, or invite ladies from your surrounding parishes to come to a meeting, or work with the Knights (if you have them in your area) when they have a Membership day. These are only a few ideas.



Perhaps some of the other courts have an idea to add please let me know, (909) 795-0717.

I know you are all working hard to reach the challenge our State Regent, Susan, has given us.

SO --- LET'S ALL



*Soar like Angels and
Rise to the Challenge*



***Diane Dinise
State Chairman
Spiritual Enhancement***

In October, we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. This feast was established in 1573 by Pope Pius V to give thanks for a critical victory won by

Christians in the Battle of Lepanto. God's intervention at a pivotal moment, when the Church was threatened with hostile forces, is attributed to this simple prayer.

Thinking about this brings to mind the many times that I've turned to The Blessed Mother in the rosary seeking her intercession for numerous petitions in times of sorrow, of suffering, of joy, and of hope. Everyday life brings with it struggles and challenges that can be overwhelming at times. Through the rosary we can ask our Mother in Heaven to lighten our load and bring our cares and worries to the feet of Her Son, Jesus. This gives me such peace and hope to know that what I ask will be granted to me. The bond between the Holy Mother and her Son is so very strong, that whatever She asks of Him will be granted. The love and respect of Jesus for His mother is so great.

Remember at the Wedding Feast of Cana when Mary presented him with the dilemma of the wedding party

whose wine had run out? His reply was, "What concern is it of mine? It is not yet my time." How Mary continued to instruct the servants to "Do whatever He tells you." Even though it was not His time, He did it out of respect and love for her. See how He cannot deny her requests.

So many times we find ourselves praying without really expecting our prayers to be answered. Maybe that's because we feel that we are not worthy. We are right, we are not worthy, but because of Jesus' love for us He answers our prayers, but we must have faith that they will be answered. I recently watched "Facing the Giants," in the movie they gave an example of two farmers who prayed for rain. One didn't believe that it would happen and the other one went out into his fields and prepared to receive the rain. Which one of the farmers' prayers was answered? You know the answer, the one who prepared for rain. That's what we need to do, pray with faith.

Our State courts started a new devotion to the Blessed Mother by gathering together and praying a Monthly Rosary in each diocese. I hope that this was as beautiful experience for you as it was for me. The intercessions are for

- 1) *Respect for life,*
- 2) *Increased membership in our courts,*
- 3) *Increased leadership in both our state and local courts, and*
- 4) *For All priests and vocations to the priesthood.*

Did you pray with faith?

How can we "prepare our fields" for "rain?" Maybe we can "prepare our fields" by getting involved with a pregnancy counseling center, or just sharing with our friends and family our thoughts and feelings on abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment in hopes of giving them something to think about and possibly changing their thinking. How about asking someone at your church to come to your CDA meeting to see what it is all about.

As far as leadership in our courts is concerned, if you've never been an officer, ask an officer what she does, pray about becoming one. Do you feel you are not qualified? Remember we didn't feel qualified, when we volunteered, but we had people to help us and we were willing to learn. You can do it. Remember Jesus did not call the qualified, He qualified the called. Is God calling you to serve as an



officer? How about talking in your families about the priesthood and encouraging a young man to pray about that vocation. These are just a few ideas of how you can prepare “your field.” So get your hands dirty and see what happens.

I was reading some information that came to me from National and I came across a resolution that was passed at the National Conference from last summer. The resolution was to ask the courts to pray the prayer for the Year of the Priest at their meeting. The prayer was not included in the information, so I would like to give it to you. The year of the priest is from June 19, 2009- June 29, 2010.

Dear Lord,

We pray that the Blessed Mother wrap her mantle around your priests and through her intercession strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests to follow her own words, “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph, Mary’s most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother’s own pierced heart inspire them to embrace all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy, filled with the fire of your love seeking nothing but your greater glory and salvation of souls. Amen.

St. John Vianney, pray for us.



Humor – “Art”

“It’s no use. Art doesn’t listen to me,” said a little boy who was praying for a new bike.

“Art who?” asked the boy’s mother.

“Art in heaven,” came the reply.



***Yvonne Connolly
President
Madonna Manor
Board***

My Dear Sisters in Catholic Daughters,

The big event is over and thanks to all of you it was a wonderful success. After all of the rain, the Lord gifted us with a beautiful sunny day.

It was exciting to see the buses and cars come rolling in to Madonna Manor. One hundred and forty Catholic Daughters came to the Picnic in Mary’s Garden, some visiting Madonna Manor for the very first time. Several tours took place and everyone was happy with what they saw.



Our new bus was decorated with balloons and Bishop Garcia honored us by blessing it. How fortunate we are to have such a wonderful man as Bishop Garcia who is always willing to come to the Manor for us. His presence and that of Father Militch (resident priest at the Manor) was appreciated by all.



First Prize winner was **Matcus Borga** (ticket sold by Court Our Lady of the Holy Spirit #2218.

Second Prize winner **Sr. Roberta Ann** (one of our resident sisters at Madonna Manor who along with some of our ladies sold over \$1,800 on one Sunday after all masses at St. Joseph’s Church)

Third prize went to **John & Margaret Marcroft**

Fourth prize winner was **Anita May** (ticket sold by Court Salinas #686

The **court** winner was **Court #686 Salinas.**

The **Catholic Daughter** winner for **attendance** was **Anita Davis** from Ct. St. Raymond #2057

The winner of the **Madonna Manor resident** drawing was **Margarite Aldrich.**



Thank you to those Catholic Daughters or Courts who bought the rose bushes to get us on our way with the upgrading and new landscaping of Mary’s Garden, they are already planted! More on that adventure later.

On behalf of the directors Jeff & Judy Walbeck, the Madonna Manor Board (who worked so hard to put on this event) and the residents of Madonna Manor a **GREAT BIG THANK YOU!** We could not have done it without your support



Save the Date

Lenten Retreat

March 5, 2010

Lead by Fr. Steve Porter, State Chaplain

California State Conference

Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport

March 5-7, 2010

Friday evening until noon on Sunday

Learn more about

National CDA Circle of Love

Detailed information and registration forms will be sent to Local Court Regents and will also be available on the State website www.catholicdaughterscalifornia.org



SPOTLIGHT San Diego Diocese

By Melody Ciaravino,
State Secretary

When I think of Pat Postal I always smile. She is THE most cheerful lady I know and it’s infectious. Anyone who has been at one of the past few State Conventions will recall that she is the effervescent chairman of the wildly popular and very successful basket drawing. Even when she is losing her voice she generates enthusiasm from the winners of the beautiful baskets that are donated by the courts around the state for this convention fundraiser.

What most members do not know is that Pat has been a member of Court Teresa of Avila in Lemon Grove for 19 years. During that time she has held all the offices in the local court. She has also been a

District Deputy in the San Diego Diocese and has served as a State Chairman for Quality of Life.

When Pat is not busy at her full time position as an officer manager for McAllister Institute she is active at St. John of the Cross Parish in Lemon Grove, California. The Sweet Shop at the Parish Festival and Rosaries for Peace in August are just a couple of the projects that Pat is passionate about. Regardless what she is involved with, you can be sure that she gives 120% of her time and talent to the work.

We are truly blessed to have Pat Postal as a dedicated Catholic Daughter.

Christmas Tree Blessing



Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy.

May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colorful lights and ornament call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree by symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen



Ct. Compton #942 has a quiz in their newsletter

Ct. Santa Maria #1079 has a rosary making group and supports the Good Samaritan Shelter by preparing and serving a dinner each month

Ct. St. Theresa #1158 had joint breakfast with K/C and had a Chili Bread Bowl fund raiser

Ct. Our Lady of Victory #1344 Afternoon Tea fund raiser and serves coffee and donuts every 4th Sunday for parish

Ct. St. Catherine #1378 has a monthly luncheon/bunco fund raiser

Ct. Father Francisco de Lasuen #1508 had a salad luncheon and bingo

Ct. Marian #1669 – co-sponsored a baby shower with Pro-Life Program on Pro-Life Sunday, collected many baby items along with \$1,261. in cash donations

Ct. Our Lady of the Miracle #1707 sponsored a tee at the parish Golf Tournament

Ct. Our Lady of the Redwoods #1742 held a reception of new members, followed by a dinner

Ct. Our Lady of Shasta #2312 supported booth at parish festival, participated in white ribbon campaign after masses and volunteered at the souvenir booth at the Redding Air Show

Ct. St. Malachy #2360 assists parish in religious education program

Ct. Queen of the Americas #2418 sponsored baby shower for the Pregnancy Center by collecting baby items and also \$641. cash donation and collects non-perishable items at every meeting for parish food center

Ct. Our Lady of La Salette #2499 has a “Shop and Share” program for helping to provide food for the church pantry and The Lord’s Table

Note: I have only covered those activities which were a little different. However, many courts in California participate in Adopt-a-Child Program, collecting pennies for Ronald McDonald House, collecting items for the Apostleship of the Sea Program, sponsor education contests, celebrate CDA Day and also our new program Praying the Rosary together every month. Everyone is to be congratulated on the time, treasures, and talents given in the name of charity.

Special note from the Editor, Bea – inasmuch as so many of our courts have the same or similar activities each month, and this report gets repetitive, I thought it would be nice to have courts send me a short message and picture (if one is available) only on special activities instead of me having to pick out the activities from your newsletters and possibly miss an item. This will also give those courts that do not have a newsletter an opportunity to share.



My New Year resolution is to give up housework, although my family believes I gave that up years ago!



*May the true spirit
Of the holiday season
Fill your hearts
With peace and love.*