



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

MESSAGE FROM OUR STATE CHAPLAIN Rev. Stephen Porter



As I write this it is July 4th, so happy Independence Day to all of you, albeit by the time you read this a little late. But it is never too late to be free! But for me this year there will be no fireworks as I am in England (the very country we broke away from!) on

vacation, and quite naturally they don't celebrate today! But it's still a fine day, hotter actually than Los Angeles and I'm sure we shall remember the importance of the day somehow.

Being free! Do you remember your first experience of freedom! I am going to guess "NO, as it was when your loving parents took you into the church for the Sacrament of Baptism (some may recall their baptism if you took part in RCIA). But whether we remember it or not, we were freed at that moment from the power of death. The Bible, the Tradition and the Teaching authority of the Church all confirm that God created us in his image for life and that it was by sin that death entered the world. Baptism washes away all sin, so it washes away all death.

In the early days of the Church people would try to delay getting baptized until near to death in order to be sure of being without sin, but sometimes it was too late by the time the minister got there ... But we are free in Christ, and if we were to sin then God in

his ever loving mercy has given us the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and if we are sick there is also the Sacrament of Anointing, all designed to set us free as often as we repent and ask for freedom. God is so good.

Most of us probably don't think of the Mass, the Sacrament of the Eucharist, as yet another option to be forgiven and set free but it is. At the very beginning we confess publicly our sins (and in the early Church people would actually mention out loud their sins!) and the Church teaches us that with proper repentance in our hearts all "venial" sins are forgiven at that time.

So, be free, and live free, and thank God for being able to practice our faith so freely in our country. Pursue life, pursue liberty and pursue happiness, but always in that order. We cannot be "happy" if others are not free, we cannot be free if others are denied life. The founding fathers (perhaps influenced in their homes by the founding mothers, their wives) perfectly understood the primacy of life in their new nation, and the importance that life be respected for future generations so that the nation they founded would be one they would be proud to hand on, and would be one that we would be proud to accept, so that we too can improve the quality of life for all, and hand on to our children something better than we received. Go Catholic Daughters of the Americas!

For those of you who weren't at the Convention, let me introduce myself a little. My name is Fr. Steve Porter and I am a diocesan priest of San Bernardino diocese where I have served for 20 years in three parishes: St. Mary's, Fontana; Sacred Heart, Etiwanda; and now at St. Catherine of Siena, Rialto. All within 12 minutes of each other, so this area of

California has become my real home. Before that I worked in England for 7 years , and before that I spent two years as a priest in Rome finishing my seminary studies which were at the Gregorian University. I hope that I can be of service to the many Courts of California, and am honored that I was asked to be State Chaplain. How may I serve? If you have any suggestions, or questions, or just want to chat, email me at frsteve@frsteve.tv, and if you want to see a little more of me go check out a short video at www.frsteve.tv or at www.fathersteve.com.

Blessings, Fr. Steve

*May God grant you always
A sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
A sheltering angel, so nothing can harm you.*

**MESSAGE FROM OUR
STATE REGENT
Susan Killian**



The State Officers and State Chairmen had our first board meeting and have been busy making plans for the next two years. We have many new people on the board and with that comes new ideas. The theme for the next two years is “Let Us Be God’s Justice and

Mercy, Hands and Feet of Christ.” At the State Convention, I shared a vision and set some goals for California CDA members to accomplish in the next two years. Three things were proposed: 1) to deepen our faith in God; 2) increase membership in California by 500 members in the next two years; and 3) increase leadership so we can continue to grow and be here for future generations.

Prayer must be first so we can hear and carry out God’s will. State Spiritual Enhancement Chairman, Diane Dinise has been working very closely with newly created Diocesan Coordinators to plan monthly rosaries in each diocese. An icon of Madonna della Strada (Madonna of the Streets) has

been sent to each of the Diocesan Coordinators to be displayed at the location of the month. The Madonna will travel from location to location within a diocese. At the State Convention in May 2011 the court within the diocese that has the most new members will keep the Madonna. The rosary intentions will be for sanctity of life, our priests (this being the year the Holy Father has dedicated as the year of the priest), increased CDA membership, and increased CDA leadership. One particular Saturday has been selected for each month with the hope that all California CDA members will be praying at the same time no matter where a member lives within the state. Some locations and dates were specifically selected as many members will be at the location. For example, the rosary will be prayed at the Madonna Manor Open House Fundraiser on October 17th. The monthly gathering is also a perfect time to network with other courts and to inform neighboring courts about upcoming events and fundraisers. A release will be sent including dates and locations. The information will also be available on the state website at www.catholicdaughterscalifornia.org. Please try to join the ladies in your diocese as we join our prayers with those of the Blessed Mother.

A goal has been set of 500 new members within California by Convention 2011. We will have to increase by 250 members per year. We currently have 86 courts in California. 250 new members divided by 86 courts = 2.9 new members per year per court. That means only three of your members need to ask one friend to join us. We can do it ladies!!! Membership Chairman, Marcie Wilson, along with the State Board will be offering a statewide membership contest. The theme selected is “Soar as Angels and Rise to the Challenge.” A release will follow. Check the home page of our state website regularly to see the progress we are making as a state. Click on membership to see how individual courts are doing.

The third goal is to increase leadership in California. We will be having election of new court officers next year. Is there any new leadership in your court? Will you be recycling officers? The State Court will again be offering a State Leadership Scholarship for the State Conference. Have members apply for the Leadership Scholarship and if awarded save some money

for your court. State Leadership Chairman, Sharon Ramirez, along with the State Court would like to possibly offer some one-day leadership trainings at a very low cost to courts. Take advantage of these opportunities so our courts will continue to thrive.

I look forward to working with the new State Officers and new State Chairmen and to serve as your State Regent for the next two years.

Susan Killian



Columbus Day
October 12, 2009

**MESSAGE FROM
NATIONAL REGENT-ELECT
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
Joanne Tomassi**

Dear Catholic Daughters of the State of California,

It gives me great pleasure to again address you by way of this beautiful newsletter. Now that your state convention is a fond memory it is time to buckle down and get things rolling again for the next year. The convention was wonderful. Immediate Past State Regent, Emily Guilherme did an excellent job of facilitating the meetings and the convention hostesses sure made everyone feel at home and welcomed. I had a wonderful time and am so glad I had the opportunity to again be with you this year. Your newly elected State Regent, Susan Killian, has chosen a very beautiful theme on which to focus for the next two years. “Let Us Be God’s Justice and Mercy, Hands and Feet of Christ” speaks volumes to all of us. There are several references in the Bible to our being part of Christ’s Body, his hands and feet. As Catholic women and Catholic Daughters we have a calling to be God’s hands to do his work and his feet to walk his way. This is not an easy assignment. Walking in the footprints of Christ can be a very lonely, difficult walk but it is our calling. Every time you volunteer at a soup kitchen or help out in your

parish you are walking in His footprints. Every time you do works of charity you are His hands carrying out His work. And so I challenge all of you to continue to do His work and walk in His footprints. State Regent Susan also chose a beautiful image of our Blessed Mother to watch over you as you carry out your work. This is such a touching image of Mary as the Mother of God. The expression on her face of simple beauty and total trust and the expression on the face of Baby Jesus of peace and comfort are exceptional and bring a feeling of peace to your heart.

Your State Board will be setting goals and communicating these to each of your courts over the next couple of months. You have elected these women and so you MUST rally behind them and support their every effort. They are truly talented, dedicated women with a common goal of leading the California CDA through the next two years, encouraging your participation in many areas of commitment and volunteerism as well as guiding you through periods of growth in membership. Our charitable activities are vital to our community involvement and our growth of membership is vital to the continued health of our courts. If you want your court to continue to grow and expand, recruiting new members will help you succeed in this regard. If each of you would ask just one friend could you imagine the results of such a membership drive! Our National Membership theme is Active Angels for God. Use this theme in planning your membership activities. Help your court to grow and expand through the recruitment of new members.

I was very pleased to see three of your state officers at the State Officer Conference in July. I know that they brought back lots of new ideas and plans for your state. Be open to new ideas and work with your officers to continue to grow in your involvements and activities. I pray that you had a restful summer and your Fall Season will be rich in CDA activities. No matter what you do for your CDA court, big or small, you are important to the court. Continue to share of your time and talent and reap the rewards of such involvement. May God Bless each of you.

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

**MESSAGES FROM OUR
STATE OFFICERS**



Dorothy Parrillo
1st Vice State Regent

I was born in Mount Vernon, New York on June 6 and was one of five children. We moved to New Jersey and settled into a peaceful life one year before the attack on Pearl Harbor. As a very young child I had no concept of a full scale war and its impact on our nation. We soon learned what to do during an air raid, how to ration food, how to save tin cans, rubber, aluminum foil, old clothing, scrap metal and so on. I didn't realize it at the time, but this was early CDA training.

This was also the time before television and just about everyone would listen to the radio. My family would gather in the living room to listen to Amos and Andy, Fred Allen, Eddie Cantor and the Lux Theater many a night.

We most often attended 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sundays and had our main meal at 1:00 p.m. Mother always heard our morning and night prayers. She didn't miss a trick. My formative years were in a small town and the neighbors usually watched out for one another. Our teachers were very interested in their students and were there to help those with problems in comprehending. I volunteered as a candy stripe girl in my freshman year in high school, which was most rewarding. I also worked at the local movie theater until my senior year. This to had its benefits.

I have been married to Daniel for 56 years. We had five children – God called one of them home five years ago and you, my dear sisters, were there to offer your prayers and your support. We are the proud Grandparents of Michael, Danielle and Joey, who now are all college students. They're here to help and were visible at many of my Court's Fund Raisers.

I have been a member of Court St. Raymond #2057 for 22 years and an officer several times over. My teaching experience has been a valuable asset to me and hopefully to you. I enjoy this organization. It encourages me to become more God like in my thoughts and in my actions. It grants me many, many opportunities. One of which is change. I have progressed from words to good deeds. I have developed friendships that are everlasting.

I am thankful to God for his many blessing – my family, my friends, my health, my good fortune, and you, my dear sisters in CDA. Together, we'll help those in need.



Daphne C. Bernestine
2nd Vice State Regent

On November 22, a beautiful baby girl was born to Arthur and Betty Douglas in Doyline, Louisiana. I received my faith as a Baptist at an early age at Zion Hill Baptist Church. After graduating from Northwestern State Univefrsity in 1988, I moved to Compton, California.

Shortly after getting married, I joined the RCIA program at Our Lady of Victory Church in Compton, CA. In April 1991 I was received into the Catholic faith at Our Lady of Victory Church. I'm a devoted member in my parish and I'm involved in many activities of the parish. When my children were in elementary school at Our Lady of Victory, I was the secretary for the PTO (Parents/Teachers Organization) for 7 years. Joseph and I have two sons and one daughter; Joseph, Joshua and Robyn.

I am currently employed at Your Man Tour, Inc. where I'm an Accounts Payable Manager. Also, I'm helping my husband establish his business in electrical/general contracting.

In April 1996, I joined Court Compton #942. I've held various offices and chairmanships, which

included the office of Regent. For the 2005-2007 term I was appointed as State Chairman of Membership. In May 2007 I was elected as the State Treasurer and in May 2009 was elected as the 2nd Vice State Regent.

These next two years will be very exciting for me. I'm looking forward to learning my duties as 2nd Vice State Regent and working with a great group of women. Thanks to everyone who voted to elect me to this position. May God always be with you!



Melody Ciaravino
State Secretary

Just a little about me: I'm a transplanted New Yorker and I've lived in California since 1980. In 1997 I joined Catholic Daughters at Court Queen of the Americas #2418 in Sylmar. During my time there I served as Vice

Regent, Regent and on various fund raising committees. In 2005 I moved to Orange County and joined Court Blessed Sacrament #2024 and that has been a very rewarding experience. Most recently, for the past two years I've served our state as Chairman of Membership/Extension.

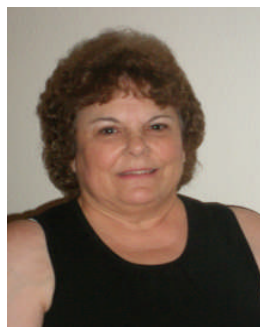
I have a wonderful, supportive husband named Max, a grown stepson, Joseph, and an almost grown son, Joey, who will be a freshmen at California State University, Northridge this fall. We all live with my mother-in-law, Lori, three cats, an African Grey Parrot and Snowball the Guinea Pig.

I'm honored and feel blessed to have been elected to this office and pray that by my actions I can, in some small way, help our great organization. I hope that each and every one of us takes a moment each day to pray for the good of our order, for an increase of membership and that our leadership on all levels will be touched by the Lord and make wise choices for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

I look forward to making many new friends and renewing old ones in the months at CDA events in California.



Rosemarie Thomson
State Treasurer



As I begin my term as State Treasurer, let me introduce myself. I am a graduate of College of Notre Dame (Belmont, CA) with a BA degree in Humanities; am a graduate of California State

Polytechnic (San Luis Obispo, CA) with an MA degree in Education (emphasis in Counseling and Guidance); have a Life Teaching Credential (Kdg – 9th) as well as a Pupil Personnel Credential. I am a retired elementary teacher and currently serve as the Treasurer for CalRTA District 17.

I am very active in my parish community serving as a Sacristan, Lector, Commentator, Eucharistic Minister, am on the Parish Council, serve on the Parish Liturgy Planning Committee, count and deposit parish money and volunteer in the Rectory whenever I'm needed. I make frequent trips to Henderson, NV, where my mother and children reside. I enjoy music, working crossword puzzles, playing cards and reading.

I have been a Catholic Daughter since 1977 serving as State Chairman of Education, a District Deputy, Regent, Vice-Regent, Financial Secretary, and am currently editor of our local court monthly newsletter. I have chaired numerous fund raisers and served as many committees. I have conducted membership drives, arranged Days of Recollection, and have attended all of the Catholic Daughter National Conventions since 2000. I am very proud to be part of this wonderful organization. With regard to being State Treasurer, you can be assured that I will do my best to keep accurate records and work harmoniously with the other State Officers. I ask for your prayers and support so sustain me as I fulfill my job as State Treasurer.

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is a United States federal holiday observed on the first Monday in September. The holiday originated in 1882 as the Central Labor Union of New York City sought to create “a day off for the working citizens.” Congress made Labor Day a federal holiday on June 28, 1884. Traditionally, Labor Day is celebrated by most Americans as the symbolic end of the summer.

MESSAGES FROM OUR STATE CHAIRMEN



Mary Tafoya
State Chairman - Education



I live in Visalia, California with my wonderful husband, Joe, of 39 years. We have two cats, Boggie and Fluffy.

I grew up in Brigham, Utah, a small town that did not have many Catholics. Even though we Catholics were few in numbers, my parents made sure (all seven) of us were at Mass every Sunday. The Missionary Sisters taught catechism classes and guided us through the years preparing us for our Sacraments.

I come from a family of seven children and we came to California in my senior year of high school. My dad and my sister, Carol, live in Fresno along with 3 nieces and 3 nephews. I have a brother in Santa Maria, one in Illinois and one in Utah. My Mom, a brother and a sister are in Heaven. I believe that my Mom and Dad being the strong Catholics that they were helped form the person that I am today.

I am proud to be the Regent of Court Little Flower #1003. I am a member of the Catholic Church of Visalia and am one of two directors for our Vacation Bible School. I’m also a member of the Altar Rosary and a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion. I was humbled to have been asked to be the Education Chairman and look forward to working with the State Officers and the other Chairmen for the next two years. I will do my best to represent the state in this capacity.

Beatitudes for Women
Blessed is she who greets the world with joy, laughter, and anticipation, for she has courage.

Sharon Lujan-Ramirez
State Chairman – Leadership

I have been fortunate enough to become State Chairman of Leadership and would like to let you know a little bit about myself. I am the proud mother of a handsome son and a beautiful daughter. The other two important members of my family are my two mischievous and loving Chihuahuas, Lucky and Penny. During the day I work as a property manager in affordable housing and at night and on weekends I am a mother, a Girl Scout Leader, a Choir Member and a Catholic Daughter.

I have been a Catholic Daughter for the last ten years and still remember the day my mother invited me to my first meeting with Court Teresa of Avila #1580. What I found intriguing about CDA was the commitment to aiding the community, supporting the Catholic faith and its churches and deepening my relationship with Jesus Christ as a Christian.

Soon after I joined I was voted Secretary and then became Regent for two terms. The ladies were wonderful and did charitable works such as: collecting baby clothes for Catholic Charities’ Annual Baby Shower; participating in the homeless shelter network; holding card parties; and organizing fashion shows to earn money for our Court. I have continued as a member of Court Teresa of Avila and am Vice Regent. I look forward to serving you and I hope to do so honorably.

Blessed is she who speaks gently, lives humbly, and chooses to give freely, for she has dignity.

Barbara Bonadiman
State Chairman – Legislation



I am so excited to be asked to be the Legislation Committee Chairman, thank you for your confidence in me.

My husband, Joe, and I have been blessed with seven daughters and three sons (in that order), twenty-eight grandchildren and one great grand daughter. Three of our daughters are also in Catholic Daughters. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year.

I had a mostly Catholic school education and graduated from Bishop Conaty Memorial High School (Catholic Girls High School), Los Angeles. I started at Immaculate Heart College in Los Angeles. I then married, had my children, and when my youngest started first grade, I started up my college education again at California State University San Bernardino and earned by BA in Liberal Studies.

To keep myself busy, I became a Real Estate Broker, a private pilot, and have my General and Building Contractors A & B licenses. My hobbies include quilting and copious reading.

I have been working with the Catholic Society of Evangelists. They supply CDs, brochures, rosaries, scapulars, etc. on-line. My job is to keep track of the sales and the finances.

I am grateful to be a member of Court Good Shepherd #1930 in San Bernardino/Highland, California. I was honored to be the immediate past regent, and held the office of Recording Secretary.

I will do my best to bring new and interesting items up for your consideration in my position of Legislative Chairman. Our State and Country need all the help they can get. Please start by praying for peace and stability and a return to sanity (miracles do happen!!!).

Blessed is she who listens and hears and extends her hands as a friend, for she has understanding.



Marcie Wilson
State Chairman -
Membership

I am a Charter Member of Court St. Anne #2517 in Banning/Beaumont. At present I will be finishing a four-year term as the Regent.

As a young teen I was a Junior Catholic Daughter and then continued on as a leader of a Junior Troop in Our Lady of Providence Court in Hawthorne. My mother was a 50+ year member, so I have been an advocate of the Catholic Daughters for many years.

I am widowed, have three married son and five grandchildren, which, of course, are the loves of my life!

I am active in my parish, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, serving as Eucharistic Minister and on the Pastoral Council.

I will dedicate myself as your Membership Chairman and with God's guidance and your enthusiasm, we will rise to the challenge to INCREASE MEMBERSHIP!!!

God Bless you all and may the Angels guide you to soar to the challenge.

Blessed is she who suffers with the very young, the very old, and the very lonely, for she has compassion.

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandma," he advised. "Mine says I'm four!"



GRANDPARENTS DAY

The impetus for a National Grandparents Day originated with Marian McQuade, a housewife in Virginia. Her primary motivation was to champion the cause of lonely elderly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. President Jimmy Carter proclaimed National Grandparents Day to be celebrated every year on the first Sunday after Labor Day.



Barbara Bowers

State Chairman – Quality of Life



“Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak, The Lord will save him in the day of evil, will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land” (Psalm 41). Being chosen for this duty “Quality of Life” is an honor.

Let me introduce myself. My roots stretch back to the home of my birth, Flushing, N.Y. moving to southern California where I attended Huntington Beach Jr. College and completed my academics in Public Relations at Santa Ana College. I didn’t start in the working field until my first daughter went to college working for my first California job with Dr Pepper Bottling of So. California in Marketing and Public Relations...It was the “I’m a Pepper” generation! Due to a company buyout I moved to bigger duties with the Coca Cola of Los Angeles expanding marketing of the southern California territory from Santa Maria and parts of Nevada. My husband Bob and I live in San Ramon with eight grown children between us. It is the second time around for each. I have four daughters and Bob has two sons and two daughters. Between us we have 17 grandchildren all but two living out of state. In December we will have been married 22 years. We are members of St. Raymond Parish, where I serve as Lector and server of the Holy Eucharist.

For eight years prior to my joining Catholic Daughters, I volunteered at the San Ramon Senior center tutoring young people having a difficult time

in school. Mostly it was a moral builder and I enjoyed this very much. I joined Court St. Raymond #2057 in March, 2005, attended my first National Convention in Minnesota as the new Regent the very first year. I was so impressed and very excited and proud to be part of this wonderful organization and from the very first moments I started thinking of what I could do to make a difference. I was so blessed to be joined in a group of like-minded women.

I am currently serving as District Deputy for Court Mary Margaret #1450, Pittsburg. I cannot extol enough the virtues and how important it is to take advantage of the Conferences and Conventions offered in this International organization to jumpstart your growth and stretch your mind into thinking how to serve our God! Our rewards are waiting for us. This is His Promise! Your input is most important to me, and I welcome your suggestions.

Blessed is she who gives simply with the very young, the very old, and the very lonely, for she has compassion.

Diane Dinise

State Chairman – Spiritual Enhancement



Greetings my fellow CDA sisters may the peace and love of Christ be with you all!

Let me introduce myself, my name is Diane Dinise. I live in Fontana with my husband Chuck. We just celebrated our 32nd anniversary on July 2nd. We are blessed with three wonderful children and one very cute grandson. My husband and I are now empty nesters, with more time on our hands than we know what to do with. We are involved at St. Peter and St. Paul Parish in Alta Loma in various ministries. I work at a local high school as a Library Specialist.

I have been a member of Catholic Daughters and Court Immaculate Conception #1454, Fontana for a little over 10 years. I have had the privilege to serve my court in various offices including Regent and

am currently the District Deputy for Court Our Lady of Fatima #1387 in Upland. My time with Catholic Daughters has been a blessing, it has gone by so quickly and yet I can barely remember when I was not a Catholic Daughter. I am so very blessed to be a part of this wonderful organization, the opportunity to discover and share my talents with good catholic women who are dedicated to their faith is priceless. The friendships that have developed and the support that I have experienced is definitely a gift from God.

When Susan asked me to be her Spiritual Enhancement Chairman, I have to say that I was wondering what she saw in me that moved her to consider me? My spirituality is very personal to me, sharing with others is difficult. But God has a plan for us all. I've heard it said that "God does not call the qualified, He qualifies the called." So here I am Lord, let me be Your hands and feet on this journey. By now you should have information about the Monthly Rosaries. I hope that you will make every effort to come together with your fellow CDA sisters and pray together for the common good of our courts. I think that this communal prayer can and will breathe new life into our courts.

I will keep you and your families in prayer. I would like to ask if you would please do the same for me. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you. May God Bless you and keep you and fill you with His Love and Grace.

Blessed is she who lives intensely and sings life's alleluias, for she has awareness

Our Lady of the Rosary

On Sunday October 7, 1571, combined Christian fleets under Don John of Austria achieved a significant naval victory over the Turks in the Straits of Lepanto. Thousands of Christians were liberated, the Turkish fleet was destroyed, and they suffered their first great defeat at sea. Pope Saint Pius V instituted an annual feast in honor of Our Lady of Victory. Two years later, Gregory XIII changed this title to Our Lady of the Rosary; in 1740, Clement XII extended the feast to the universal Church.



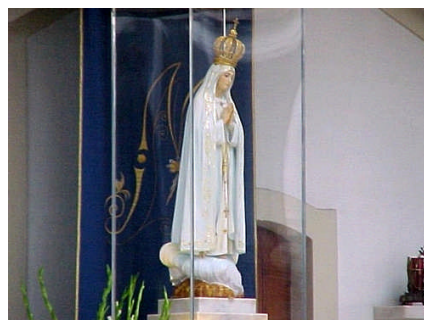
MARY SILVA STATE CHAIRMAN YOUTH

I would like to start off by telling you a little about myself. I come from the Portuguese Azores Islands. I have been living most of my life in the Southern California area. I am a divorced single mom with one son (my bright shining star) who is 19 years old. He attends college part-time and works part-time at a computer business. I have been employed for the last three years at St. Mel's Catholic Church as the parish secretary. I really enjoy my job and all the different ministries involved in a church and as the secretary I get to help most of them in one way or another.

I have been a Catholic Daughter for only a couple of years and I belong to Court San Ysidro #1507. I have just finished my ten month appointed term as California State Secretary. It was during my short term that I realized how much this great organization does for charity and for the good of human life.

So, when asked to be State Chairman for Youth by our State Regent, I was honored and happy to take the position. I look forward to the next two years as your Youth Chairman. Your input and help is most important to me, and I welcome any and all of your suggestions concerning our YOUTH! God's Peace,

Blessed is she who has compassion and courage, freedom and dignity, understanding, and awareness, for she is a woman, a gift, a blessing.





SPOTLIGHT

Los Angeles Archdiocese

By Dorothy Parrillo, First Vice State Regent

This was not an easy choice. I decided to write about someone completely unfamiliar to me. I first met Blair Weaver at the 2007 State Convention in the elevator. We chatted briefly and at that time I found her to be a delightful person. She was friendly and very outgoing.

The next occasion for contact with Blair was at the 2009 State Convention. Again, a few brief words. It wasn't until several weeks ago that I decided to call Blair and interview her for this article. We hit it off and were like old friends talking up a storm.

Blair was born in Port Jefferson, New York. She is the oldest of three girls. Her sisters are scattered throughout the country, but they do manage to get together.

As a result of a 107 degree temperature, Blair, at the age of 18 months suffered a stroke. This left her physically handicapped. She does not have the use of one hand and arm. Her father believed that God would give Blair the faith and the spirit to endure. He raised her with these words, "Give it your best shot" and "Remove the word can't from your vocabulary." Blair did this and proved to her high school coach that she could even shoot basketballs through the hoops. She did so and amazed everyone.

She went on to marry her Prince Charming. They were married for 30 years. He died two years ago. Together, as a result of his livelihood, they moved to many areas. Eventually, they ended up in the High Desert country; it was here that her husband convinced Blair to join Court Our Lady of the Desert #1619. She credits Judy Azzarritti for being such a great mentor. Blair is currently Regent of this Court and sing the praises of her members. They begin every meeting with a hug

I'd like to sing the praises of Blair; she's a marvelous example for all of us. Her physical handicap does not have her sitting in a corner wallowing in self pity. Instead, she is out there doing the work of the Lord with a smile on her face and a song in her heart. She is giving life her best show. God Bless you, Blair. Keep up the good work. We love you. Let us all be like Blair and give everything we do its Best Show.



SPOTLIGHT

Diocese of Stockton

By Rosemarie Thomson, State Treasurer

Maxine Fisher is an exemplary Catholic Daughter and extraordinary lady. She is 86 and her husband is 92, and as she put it, "they're still kickin". It was because of Robert that Maxine became a convert to Catholicism. When Robert was serving our Country overseas, she decided that if they were going to be married that it was best they be of the same faith. She was a Baptist and he was a Catholic. She took instructions while he was away. Their wedding day was very significant – she was baptized, made her First Communion, was confirmed and was married. How's that for lot of Sacraments in one day! She and her husband, Robert, have been married 64 years. They have four sons, one daughter and 18 grandchildren. Maxine is a travel agent and has traveled extensively, including all the continents. She is still working in the travel business. One of her last trips was to Antarctica.

Maxine has been a Catholic Daughter for 35 years. At present, she is a member of Court Our Lady of Perpetual Help #1402. She has served as a District Deputy for several years, has held all offices at the local level and has chaired many fund raisers. She taught in the Religious Education Program for 25

years and is a Eucharistic Minister. As a PTA member, she started the “Clothes Closet” for underprivileged children in the public schools.

Maxine played golf until about age 80 until her knees gave out a little. She enjoys playing Bridge and especially enjoys her monthly get-togethers with the St. Agatha group of ladies. They have lunch together, discuss a variety of topics, and just enjoy one another’s company. In closing, it can be perceived that Maxine enjoys life, her faith, her friends, and her beloved husband, Robert.



SAVE THE DATE

October 17, 2009

A Picnic in Mary’s Garden

Bishop Garcia will celebrate Mass and draw the winner of the Drawing.

Dear Sisters in Catholic Daughters,

My name is Yvonne Connolly, I am a member of Court Santa Barbara #293 and I am honored to be serving as president of the Madonna Manor Board for the next two years.

Things are going well at the Manor. Currently we have sixty four residents, and we are licensed for sixty eight, so that is very good.

We are working hard on the October fundraiser, “A Picnic in Mary’s Garden”. Your Regent will be receiving the drawing tickets, a program of events and an outline of the prizes very soon so please ask about them at your next meeting.

As a lot of you who attended the State Convention in May already know, we have to replace the roof at the Manor. This is the original roof so we have been blessed to have it last for so many years, however there comes a time when things have to be replaced and it is that time for the roof. This is a very costly undertaking so we need all the support that we can possibly get. Please sell lots of tickets; it is vital that this year’s fundraiser is a huge success. All of the money raised will go to the roof!

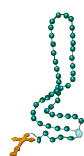
If you wish to make separate donations from your courts or even individually we would be very grateful but please make sure you mark the check “ROOF”.

If some of you are coming as a group and you plan on staying over and need hotel / motel information please let me know. My email is yvonnemom@cox.net. I will have someone contact you or you’re Regent. We want you to have a wonderful day and maybe stay over and enjoy the beautiful Monterey area.

We extend a very warm welcome to all of you, your families and friends to join us in Mary’s Garden Saturday, October 17th. Come and see what has been accomplished at the Manor so far. Tours will be available by request.

I want you all to feel a part of Madonna Manor because it belongs to all of us. I will do my best to keep you informed through these articles in the Golden State Tidings and I will do my best to serve you well.

From my heart to yours - Yvonne Connolly



Monthly Rosary

You should all have received information regarding the Monthly Rosaries. Please make every effort to come together for the common good of our Courts.

Note from the GST Editor: Please send me copies of your newsletters/bulletins so that the information of your court activities can be shared throughout the state. Also, if your Court has a special activity, please send information and/or pictures. Looking forward to receiving lots of newsletters/bulletins!

Bea Abshear
15403 Florwood Avenue
Lawndale, CA 90260
310-970-1067
babshear@aol.com