



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**

Happy New Year to all Catholic Daughters – even though New Year's day is long gone, and anyway it wasn't even Catholic New Year (First Sunday of Advent), but none the less,

to keep some sort of connection with the secular world in which we live: Happy New Year!

I look forward to seeing many of you at the California State conference in March. It looks to be exciting from the advance agenda I have seen. Our lives as Catholic Daughters are given to God. It's easy to say that, harder to put it into practice. How do we serve God?

In our families to start with – the family is, and has been for thousands of years, the basic foundational block of society. A man meets a woman (or vice versa), God puts into their hearts a flame of love and asks them to respond. They date (chastely, of course – we are talking of the ideal situation, which I am very happy to say is actually the reality for many people still today), God's love for each of them blossoms into their love for each other, the man proposes (usually that way round still), the woman accepts and a date for a Sacramental celebration is chosen. That's the beginning of God's work with that family, and as long as the family remains open to God's Spirit, then God will continue to work with them, and give them children as God decides when and how many. That's the ideal, and nothing can destroy it.

Now many couples I know tell me that it's not always plain sailing. There are days fraught with

anxiety, tension, fear and other temptations, but they also tell me that as long as they pray together (and that is the absolute key to a good marriage) they rarely go to bed without some resolution to whatever attacks they have experienced that day. My own mom and dad (and he wasn't even a Catholic) used to pray Night Prayer of the Church every night before they put out the lights and went to sleep.

As long as prayer is a part of the marriage (actually of any relationship – have you prayed with your boss? your employees?) the ideal remains attainable.

We know that there are lots of questions about what marriage is these days, and we are told that the sanctity of marriage is under attack if this or that happens. But the truth is that the sanctity of marriage is always under attack simply because marriage is such a good thing and it is directly ordained by God for the common good of society, the Church, the couples who are married to each other, and their children. The State (let's keep it anonymous, but actually nearly all legislative jurisdictions) permits divorce, and even uncontested divorce: the "I don't feel like being married to you anymore, so I'm off..." type situations. And that does challenge the ideal of Catholic marriage; but in reality every challenge properly faced with prayer, thanksgiving, and at times self-sacrifice only serves to strengthen the ideal. Couples I know who've overcome the "I don't feel..." temptation tell me that their marriage grew under that threat and is now better than ever, because they prayed together.

And now the State (and Nation) is debating another challenge to marriage. Just as the challenge of easy divorce strengthens the ideal of Catholic marriage, so too will these current challenges. And I can assert that with confidence because marriage is a Sacrament and as such is made in heaven. God will not force it on any one, but he offers us the ideal, and he gives us



the means of making the ideal into reality – prayer together – so that the family will remain the center and foundation of our Church and society.

Blessings, Fr. Steve Porter



We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over all families, so that in the strength of your grace their members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and, as the Church alive in the home, bear witness in the world to your glory. Amen.



STATE REGENT
Susan Killian

As you all know, as State Regent I am responsible for all CDA activities in the State of California, both good and not so good. However, I am concerned about the “not so good”. It seems as the “not so good” has been increasing. I have taken calls or received letters stating a court does not want to participate in a particular function or practice. These included, but are not limited to: electing officers at the prescribed time; conducting bi-annual financial reviews; participating in conventions, conferences and workshops; paying dues to state or national; wearing robes; and holding ceremonies. It really concerns me when I hear these complaints. As members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, we have all *chosen* to be a part of an awesome National organization. When we were received into our organization, we agreed to”dedicate ourselves to the work of this organization”. That includes following the rules and regulations of our Order put forth by our National By Laws along with other rules set forth in California by vote at State Conventions. Think of the chaotic nature of our functions without by-laws and rules. The use of by-laws and rules have kept our Order in existence for the last 106 years.

At Convention in May 2009, some goals were set for California CDA members. The goals included:

praying together for sanctity of life, increased membership, increased leadership, and for our priests. The response to pray together has been outstanding. As I have attended rosary services in several different dioceses, I have been filled with the presence of the Holy Spirit and pleasantly surprised by the different ways individual courts have chosen to pray the rosary. Every rosary I have attended has included refreshments with time for members from different courts to socialize and share ideas. The room is LOUD and fun. Thank you to those courts that have already hosted the monthly rosary.

Another important way to keep us connected as a National organization is to attend conventions, conferences, and workshops. **Whether one is a veteran member or a brand new member, there is always something new to be learned.** The conventions are where we, as CDA members, vote on important matters that affect our day-to-day operations. The California State Conference is an opportunity for members to be provided with some spiritual enrichment and with information on our National Circle of Love Program. The State Board also provides leadership training to District Deputies and Local Court Officers. It is the State Board’s desire to also provide a Leadership Training Workshop sometime within the next year.

Some of the workshops have very minimal costs while the cost of the State Conference or Conventions can prohibit attendance for some courts. I would suggest being aware of the dates and trying to save ahead of time. It will be money well spent. Thank you to those courts that have made attendance a priority. These meetings and trainings help us understand why we have certain rules and practices. They also help bring forth new leadership within our courts. I encourage you to get involved with this awesome National organization by attending conventions, conferences and workshops; otherwise we would just be another women’s group.

Susan

February 15, 2010





**NATIONAL
REGENT-ELECT**

**NATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVE**

Dear Catholic Daughters
of the State of California,

As I write this message I am sitting in an airplane on the tarmac at Tampa International Airport awaiting our departure to Washington DC. In just a few days, I along with the rest of the National Officers, some of the National Directors and many CDA members will again take part in the annual **March for Life** on the anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision in *Roe-vs.-Wade* which legalized abortion on demand.

For those of you who have never participated in the event allow me to share my awe and wonder at the number of participants and especially the number of young people who travel from all over the United States to take part in this peaceful demonstration. This is my sixth year attending the march and my amazement never lessens. I recall last year after my slow progress and upon reaching the top of Capital Hill I turned around to see how close I was to the end of the procession. For as far as I could see the throngs of marchers were still coming. People filled the 6 lane roadway from curb to curb and beyond. Although I had been moving a little slow the enthusiasm all around me kept me going. The young groups from the elementary, middle and high schools would pass me by dancing, singing, trotting, cheering and generally encouraging all those around them to keep on going. As I walked I would move in and out of groups of people reciting the Rosary as they continued the march. There are not enough words to describe the emotions of the day.

I am very thankful to again have the privilege of representing you, my fellow Catholic Daughters at this momentous occasion. This year will be a new challenge for me as it is just 10 weeks since I had a total left knee replacement. I pray that I will have the strength and endurance to again make it to the top of "The Hill." I know my fellow CDA sisters will be there to lend me support and encouragement and so I will do my best.

As many of you know **this is the year we elect new officers in our local courts.** We have so much hidden talent in our members and so often the member is the last to recognize her own ability. Please prayerfully consider serving your local court as a court officer. So often I hear the excuse "I've never done that job." Well, guess what, neither had the person currently serving or the one before her or the one before that. You have to start somewhere. Why not let this year be the year for you?

Shortly after you install your local court officers it will be time for our **Biennial National Convention in Buffalo, NY (July 14 -18, 2010).** I am very excited about this year's convention. The workshops we are planning are very relevant to today's CDA. The new procedures book will be completed. The hotel is lovely and the convention facilities are a part of the same building. It is a beautiful location and the New York Catholic Daughters have been working very hard to make this convention extra special. In addition, the church where I will be installed as the next National Regent is a beautiful old gothic church with magnificent stained glass windows and fabulous statuaries. And, as an added bonus, it is more than large enough to accommodate all those in attendance.

The hotel is located close to the water front and not far from the downtown area where there is a FREE train service that can take you up and down main-street. Lastly, the tours are fantastic. I can't wait to see Niagara Falls again. The last time I was there I was only 7 years old. Don't forget, if you are planning on going into Canada you will need a passport or a passport card. I hope many of you are planning to attend and join in the education and fun.

Well I have rambled on quite a bit so I wish you a peace filled joyous year.

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

Valentine's Day February 14





Worried about calories in the chocolate you received for Valentine's Day? Here's the answer on how to take care of the calories ---- Store your chocolate on top of the fridge. Calories are afraid of heights, and they will jump out of the chocolate to protect themselves.



**FIRST VICE STATE
REGENT**

Dorothy Parrillo

My sincere thanks to all of you for your prayers regarding our daughter Betsy. She had a CT scan and an examination by her Oncologist the week before

Christmas. God's gift to all of us was good news. Betsy is doing very well considering the cancer she is dealing with. Please share in our joy and please continue your prayers for her.

I find it a Blessing that we can turn to you my Dear Sisters for your Support and your Love when we are facing the Trials and Tribulations of Life.

Prayer is certainly our most powerful gift given to us by the Lord. All struggles are most natural to life. If we can only experience these struggles believing that God is always with us, then our struggles will give us perspective, character and a much clearer vision of our purpose. God will help us to hope for a Better Tomorrow.

We on the State Board are asking you to join us and help to build a Better Tomorrow for the less fortunate. So let us pray that many of you will do this by agreeing to become one of your Court's Officers. Remember, most Courts disband because they can not obtain Leaders. "You all have to have a talent for having a talent" was said by the actress Ruth Gordon to several aspiring actors. I say the same to you. **Each one of us brings different gifts along on our journey in life. We all have a variety of talents.** Many of us don't always know how to use them. Each of our talents has a purpose. They were not given to us by accident. We all have talents; and may not live up to our potential without prayer, and perhaps help from our friends.

When asked by your nominating committee to become Regent, Vice Regent, Recording Secretary,

Financial Secretary, or Treasurer in March, 2010 please, PLEASE consider it and say yes. God has picked you. And there are those of us who are willing to help you put your talents to good use. It is a most rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Please Dear Sisters pray for all your Officers, be they Local or State, that we may put our Talents in God's Hands rewarding ourselves by living up to His expectations and full capacity. Happy Election

God Bless

Dollie



**SECOND VICE STATE
REGENT**

Daphne Bernestine

Hello Ladies, Happy New Year!!!!!!!!!!!!

We are well on our way in a new year with new ideas in getting ladies to join our organization. We have been increasing membership through our Contests, and we are doing very well. Please go on-line www.catholicdaughterscalifornia.org to see our Angel turn from White to Gold. The more gold we see on her signifies the new members we have gained.

Ladies, if we want our Angel to turn all gold by the end of the 2-year term then we will have to really **increase our membership**. It would be nice if by the end of the term that we have 2 Angels that turned gold. Don't forget that our theme is "**Soar like Angels and Rise to the Challenge**". I know we all have a little challenge in us to go out, and get new members.

When sending in the Angel Tally Form make sure that all information is filled out correctly. Please fill out the name of the new member, and the person that recruited the new member. In order to receive your credit this information is very important that it is on the form. Also, make sure this form is attached to the new member application form.

Ladies, I would like to thank each Court for their fast response to the invoices that went out for dues from the State. I know that some courts have questions on



the number of members that were billed and is different from what they have on their roster. I should have an updated roster for each court by the next Financial Review. The numbers should match the correct number of members that National has on file. I will be contacting each court to determine that the number of members for Local, State and National all match. **The billing for the March, 2010 will be sent out with the correct number of members that the State has on file.** So, ladies please make sure that you send in all Deletion, New Membership application, and Transfer forms to me as soon as possible for the semiannual billing.

In reviewing the **Financial Review Forms** from September 30, 2009, I'm still waiting on some of the Financial Review paperwork. Please send in your Reviews to me as soon as possible and if you have not paid your dues please send the dues payment at the same time.

Ladies, this is a new year with new ideas. So let's get together to make changes in all our Courts to increase membership. **Membership Drives should be the # 1 focus this year.** Let's turn this Angel into a Golden Angel!

May the Lord bless each of you and always protect you.

Daphne



STATE SECRETARY
Melody Ciaravino

Within the next few months all of our Local Courts will be electing officers to serve for the next two years. While some ladies might jump at the chance to serve our

Order as an officer, many others worry that they might not be able to do the job, it is too complicated or too much work. **The office of Recording Secretary can be a position that is intimidating on first glance. But, as with anything else, with a bit of knowledge about what is required, it is really not so bad.**

First, let's review the duties of the Recording Secretary. According to the Bylaws, Article XIV, Section 3 C, the Recording Secretary shall:

1. Keep accurate proceedings (minutes) of all meetings.
2. Conduct the correspondence of the Local Court, except as specified under the duties of the Financial Secretary.
3. Perform such duties as may be assigned by the Regent.

The most visible item in the job description is taking minutes at meetings. We've all seen the Secretary writing notes throughout the meeting. There are some key items of information that are required for the official Minutes:

- Description of the meeting, including date, time and place.
- Name of Presider
- Roll call of Officers and the fact that a quorum is present.
- Whether the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- The Treasurers report; either the details or as an attachment.
- All motions, including who made the motion, but not who seconded, and, if the motion was passed or lost.
- When there is an election by ballot, the report of the tellers will be included.

As you can see, this would leave much of the discussion at meetings unrecorded. The minutes are the history of the Local Court and they should be concise, but informative. They can be typed or hand written and they need to be stored in the Court Minute Book. **You don't have to have worked in an office or as a secretary to be Recording Secretary.**

These things are also part of my job as State Secretary. Additionally, in most states, the State Secretary is responsible for Membership, including additions, deletions and dues. In our state this is not the case. In California, membership is handled by the Second Vice State Regent. Each year at Officer training meetings and District Deputy training meetings we stress this difference in our structure. But, somehow many of our officers continue to send Membership information to the State Secretary.



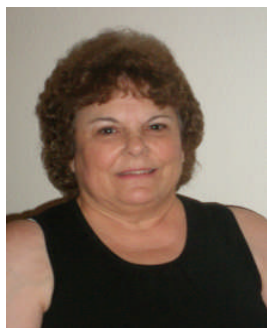
Ladies, as much as I LOVE getting mail, it is sad when I open your envelopes and discover yet another form that I have to mail off to our Second Vice State Regent, Daphne Bernestine. Please help me save money on stamps and envelopes and **send ALL MEMBERSHIP FORMS AND DUES to:**

Daphne Bernestine 2nd Vice Sate Regent
602 N. Mayo
Compton, CA 90221

Melody



STATE TREASURER
Rosemarie Thomson



What is a Treasurer? According to the dictionary, a “treasurer” is an officer in government, a business concern or a private organization, having charge of the funds.

As Catholic Daughters State Treasurer, it is my job to assist our State Regent is keeping accurate financial records and verifying use of state monies. This is done through various reports which cross check information. I would probably describe my job as a combination of a local court Financial Secretary and local court Treasurer – definitely a challenge.

With regard to local courts, it is very important that these two officers keep accurate records. The Financial Secretary is one method used to cross check information. Financial reviewers have a very important job. If local courts are not keeping good, accurate records, it is up to the reviewers to get records in order. Record of Treasurer’s book/ledger should be kept permanently. Cancelled checks, checkbook registers, savings account books are kept for seven years. Stop payment orders and monthly treasurer’s financial reports are kept for three years.

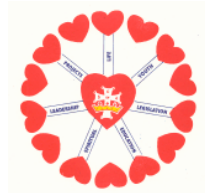
Rosemarie

The Shamrock

The shamrock, which was also called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was a sacred plant in ancient Ireland because it symbolized the rebirth of spring. By the seventeenth century, the shamrock had become a symbol of emerging Irish nationalism.

As the English began to seize Irish land and make laws against the use of the Irish language and the practice of Catholicism, many Irish began to wear the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage and their displeasure with English rule.

MESSAGES FROM OUR STATE CHAIRMEN



Marcie Wilson
State Chairman
Membership/Extension

Happy 2010



Well, the Christmas season is over and a New Year begins. And what an exciting one it will be!

Already good things are happening, the Membership Angel Contest is going well and most likely will be over by the time you receive this edition. **Were you or your**

Court the winner?

The number of new members have increased and as you continue to have your membership drives (and I will be getting in touch with you to remind you) the numbers will increase even more.

One of the best ways to increase membership is “marketing”, such as showing who we are and what we do. Be a visible and a vital part of the parish, it will spread the word and help to encourage



membership. Also, wear your CDA logo shirts, sweater and pins. Use your banner when you are having or serving at a function. These are part of showing who you are.

REMEMBER

- M**embers are the lifeblood of **CDA**.
- E**very Catholic woman is welcome.
- M**ake guests feel welcome at our events.
- B**e supportive and enthusiastic about court events.
- E**xercise your right to bring a friend to each event.
- R**emember those who can't drive at night or are no longer able to drive and offer them a ride.
- S**mile when you talk about **CDA**
- H**elp spread the word about all the good work you do.
- I**nvite ladies from another parish or Catholic group.
- P**lan an annual membership drive.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO HAVE AN ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!!!! This could be at a Fashion Show, a tea, ice cream social, wine/cheese tasting, or a card party. If you would like to share what your court does, please let me know. It could help another court to try something new.

As your State Extension/Membership Chairman, I am **always interested in what your are doing**. Thank you for your newsletters. If you need help, please get in contact with me.

Wishing you all a holy and healthy new year! God Bless.

Marcie



Barbara Bonadiman
State Chairman – Legislation



Wow! What a ride our Country is having! Do you understand what is happening? I sure don't, but I have an idea that if we work together we can (maybe) put some sense into our congressmen (no PC there).

We have a dilemma. Who do we believe? The only choice we have as Catholic

women is to follow the Teachings of the Church with regards to morals. The Ten Commandments come to mind, especially, "Thou shalt not kill" and "Thou shalt not steal."

It seems our morals do not mesh with the majority in Congress. Don't they have the same Constitution we have with the right to "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness?" Our state government is far from perfect, too.

The following Resolution was adopted by the National Board of Catholic Daughters of the Americas on September 27, 2008, "... RESOLVED, That CDA members be encouraged to pray for the continuing well-being of this nation under God." And a second Resolution at the National Board Meeting on March 14, 2009 states; "... RESOLVED, That the Catholic Daughters of the Americas offer prayer for and, whenever possible, material assistance to those in their communities affected by this economic situation."

Resources for you are abundant like The Morality in the Media Newsletter (www.moralityinmedia.org) for information to combat pornography and obscenity. The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment (www.ncla.org) has many resources for the protection of Human Life including but not limited to Abortion, Born-Alive Infants Protection Act, Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), and many more issues all of which are important to our Catholic/Christian heritage.

For a complete list of the California State Senators and their addresses go to www.leginfo.ca.gov/sen-address.html.

Barbara

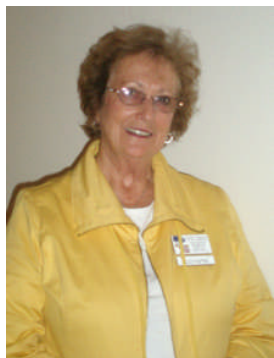
SWALLOWS OF MISSION
SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO



It happens every Spring. Every year around the 19th of March, St. Joseph's Day, we focus on that phenomenon of nature - the return of the Swallows of Capistrano. The little birds, which are cliff swallows, begin rebuilding their mud nests, which are clinging to the ruins of the old stone church of San Juan Capistrano. They usually return to the same nests each year, and, if necessary rebuild in the same place. With just as much mystery, they leave on the Day of San Juan Capistrano, October 23. It is believed they winter in Argentina.



Barbara Bowers
State Chairman – Quality of Life



The mantra of The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is “*Unity and Charity*”. In the 107 years of this organizations’ existence I think back to its founders...how brilliantly wise they were. They were certainly guided by the Holy Spirit in the same way our Declaration of

Independence was evolved.

There are hundreds of courts throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Guam. In our state alone there are 85 courts each with the mantra “*Unity and Charity*”! ‘Unity’ is being united into one; “‘Charity’ is at the heart of the Church’s social doctrine” quoted from the Encyclical Letter *CARITAS IN VERITATE* of the Supreme Pontiff BENEDICT XVI.

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his own face in a mirror. He sees himself, then goes off and promptly forgets what he looked like. But the one who peers into the perfect law of freedom and preservers, and is not a hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, such a one shall be blessed in what he does”. Jas. 1:22-25

Faith without works is useless (Jas 2:18)! Where do we fit in as Catholic daughters? How does it affect my church, my family, my neighbor?

Catholic Daughters are doers who act through their selflessness and express what the Holy Father expresses in his *CARITAS IN VERITATE* – Love in Truth. Charity is love received and given. It is a grace. Its source is the overflow of the Father’s love for his son as the Holy Father points out.

The Holy Spirit working through Catholic Daughters enables each court to unite members in working and praying together on projects to raise funds, assist with the homeless, to support our church and local communities in their needs. The cumulative projects are multiplied when (united) joined statewide together for the betterment of mankind..

Although we are many, we are of the same mind in *Unity* and *Charity* and are blessed!

Barbara



MARY SILVA
STATE CHAIRMAN YOUTH



Dear Catholic Daughters,

Tomorrow’s promise lives in today’s youth because they will be our leaders, the citizens and the church of tomorrow. We need to start responding to their needs today, to shape a better future for all of us. Every California Court can fulfill the goals of

the Youth Program by committing itself to sponsor, participate in or support at least one youth activity.

This can easily be accomplished by working with existing community and or parish youth groups, for example, the Youth Ministry in your church, Social Action groups. local schools, Boys or Girls Scouts, etc. Depending on what you determine are the needs and or interests of the youth in your community.

It is my mission as the Youth Chairman to nurture personal and spiritual growth, to promote service to others and an awareness and appreciation of diversity through a variety of different activities and experiences.

In my next article I will share with you some of the ways we can do this together.

May God bless you, *Mary*

IF A CHILD

- lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.**
- lives with hostility, she learns to fight.**
- lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.**
- lives with encouragement, she learns confidence.**
- lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.**
- lives with fairness, she learns justice.**
- lives with security, he learns to have faith.**
- lives with approval, she learns to like herself.**
- lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.**



Yvonne Connolly
President
Madonna Manor Board

Dear Sisters in Catholic Daughters,

As we start the New Year I can't help but look back in gratitude at all of the courts and the wonderful women in CDA who have supported and continue to support Madonna Manor.

The board members are working so hard on your behalf, I am very proud of them and thank them for the support that they give to me as president.

I do have to tell you that unless we find a huge benefactor or a grant out there somewhere we will be forced to borrow money for the roof. We are fortunate that there is absolutely no debt on the Manor and we will borrow as wisely as possible. We are carefully going over all of the Manors financials to make absolutely certain that if we do have to take out a loan, and it looks like we will have to, that we will be able to make the monthly payments and not jeopardize the Manor in any way. It is a big responsibility and we are not taking it lightly. We are a family and I will always be honest in my presentation of the business of the Manor to you.

As I said in October, we are also working on plans to upgrade the exterior of the Manor but that will be done only with funds raised and not borrowed. The upgraded landscape at the front of the Manor, which you saw in October, was paid for by Court Santa Barbara 293.

On the bright side the board held their first meeting of the year on the 15/16th January. On Saturday evening we gave a party for the residents, the theme was "A Winter Wonderland". Judy Walbeck the director, had the living room beautifully decorated with snowmen and snowflakes, the ladies were thrilled. We served ice cream snowballs for desert with a little drop of sherry or herb tea. We had a very good guitar player who entertained us with lots of old songs that the ladies could sing along too. The ladies all received gifts from the board members so it was a very pleasant evening.

We are working on the fundraiser for this year and hope to have information at the Conference in March. As you can tell by this article we need all the prayers

and financial help we can get, donations are always gratefully received. When the fundraiser comes along please give it yours and your courts whole hearted support. I look forward to seeing you in March.

From my heart to yours,

Yvonne



SPOTLIGHT
Fresno Diocese

by Daphne Bernestine, 2nd Vice State Regent



What
a
Beautiful
Lady

This Spotlight Article is on a lady that has devoted her time and talent to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for over 20 years. Mrs. **Lil Draxler** is a member of **Ct. St. Francis of Assisi in Hanford**. She has held all Officer positions in her court and has served some of them twice. What a dedicated lady!!!!

Lil has been a District Deputy for several Courts and a State Chairman for Leadership (Circle of Love Program). She has brought new ideas to Courts regarding Leadership.

Lillian Caroline (Brennan) Draxler was born on September 27 in Wisconsin. She has been married to her devoted husband, John, for 55 years. They both attend Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hanford, and both are very active in their parish.

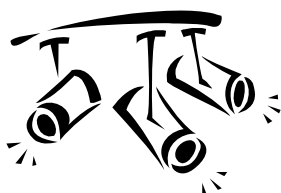
Lil has six children: Chuck, Terri, Sheri, John, GiGi, and Sandi, eleven grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren who call her NaNa. Lil has a special

love for her grandchildren. She has taught them various projects with the 4-H Club with her favorite being sewing. While she was State Chairman she helped the newly elected State Officers hem their robes. We appreciated the love and friendship that she has give to all of us.

Lil also has a passion for other organizations. She has been a Local, Regional and State 4-H leader for over 40 years. She was also a Dairy Woman and worked on the Dairy Princess Committee. Lil is also a member of Garden Club and Make a Wish Foundation. She works on Habitat for Humanity, is a King County Fair Booster and is a King County Fair volunteer.

Lil was also named “Hanford Woman of the Year” and won the “Common Thread Award.”

Lil, you are the Spotlight in our hearts today.



SPOTLIGHT San Bernardino Diocese

by Melody Ciaravino, State Secretary

Over the past few month, I've had the pleasure of getting to know the Catholic Daughters of the San Bernardino Diocese. Of all the women, I've met, there is one in particular who stands out for her incredibly positive attitude about life --- **Clara Campo.**

Clara is 85 years old and a member of **Ct. Our Lady of Peace 1306** for 32 years. When she first joined the Court she was working full time and unable to attend meetings, but she did participate in many of the Court events. Once retired, she got more active and began attending meetings. When the Regent moved out of town and the Court needed another Regent, Clara stepped up and said, “Yes, I will.” She completed that term and served another. When asked to serve as a District Deputy for Ct. Good Shepherd #1930, she again said “Yes, I will.”

Clara's efforts are felt far and wide. She has served as Eucharistic Minister and as the Chairman of the Fiesta Committee in her parish, St. Bernardine's. She has also been a member of a variety of city planning commissions

Clara was married to her husband, John, the love of her life for 61 years and was widowed in 2006. John was a 4th Degree Knight and she was active with the Wives of the Knights. They had 3 daughters and 2 sons, and one son gone to heaven. She has instilled her positive attitude of giving in all her children. The three daughters are all members of Ct. Our Lady of Peace and her oldest daughter is Recording Secretary. Over the years, they have all been active in their parishes and community. Truly, the apple does not fall far from the tree.

Currently, Clara is a volunteer at San Bernardino Medical Center. On Tuesday mornings, you can find her there answering phones or stuffing envelopes. She told me that she is selfish, because by keeping busy she has no time to worry about herself. If only we could share here “selfishness” with everyone we meet, what a wonderful place we would live in! Thank you, Clara, for all you do for Catholic Daughters and our community.

TWO LITTLE BOYS

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, a five year old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole.

As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother ran to the yard in a panic. “Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?” she asked as she shook the older boy in anger.

“We were just playing ‘church’ mommy,” he said. “And I was just baptizing him In the name of the Father, the Son and in ... the hole-he-goes.”

**"TID BITS" from
CALIFORNIA COURTS**

Ct. Santa Maria #1079 supported "10 Angels" from the Salvation Army Angel Tree – helped out a resident at the Good Samaritan Shelter by purchasing a crib mattress, blankets and pajamas for a baby and set up a \$200. scholarship fund to help the mother with her college education. Have a "Recipe Corner" in their newsletter. Member, Kay Hessler, who is living in a rest home in Lake Arrowhead has started a rosary group.

Ct. St. Theresa #1158 has a "Threads of Love" project for tiny premature and sick infants. Had an Epiphany Potluck Party.

Ct. St. Catherine #1378 had a Christmas Prayer Service and Pot-Luck Dinner. Held one-day retreat – the subject was "Christian Meaning of Human Suffering".

Ct. San Ysidro #1507 has a member who participated in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, walking 36 miles over 2 days and raised \$3,600.

Ct. Marian #1669 is sponsoring a Lenten Retreat

Ct. Our Lady of the Redwoods #1742 celebrating their 53rd Anniversary. Will furnish salads for the Confirmation Class Day of Recollection

Ct. Blessed Sacrament #2024 gave gifts to residents at Mary's Shelter for Christmas

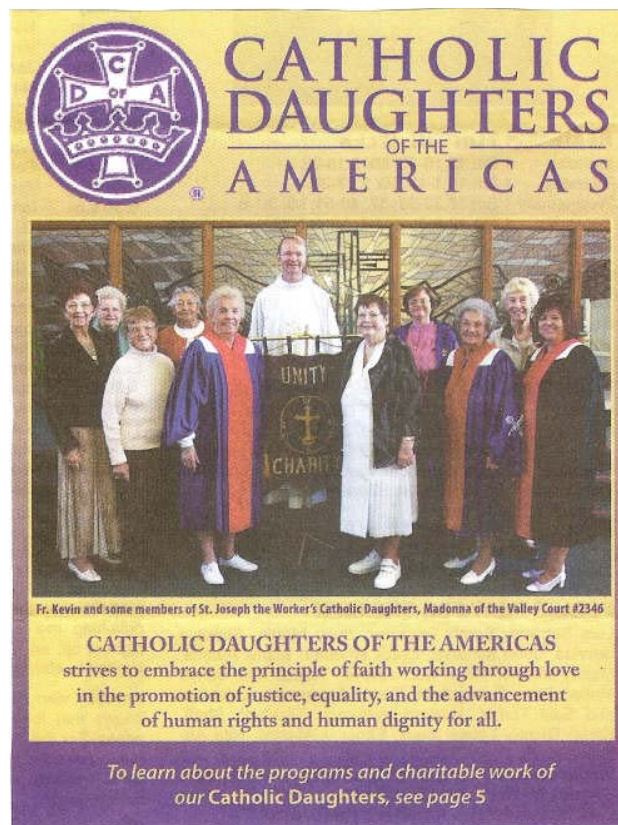
Ct. Our Lady of Shasta #2312 sponsored an Advent Evening Mass. Had a Christmas cookie sale.

Ct. St. Malachy #2360 prepared baskets for shut-ins at Christmas time. Also presents a baby blanket to all infants baptized at St. Malachy.

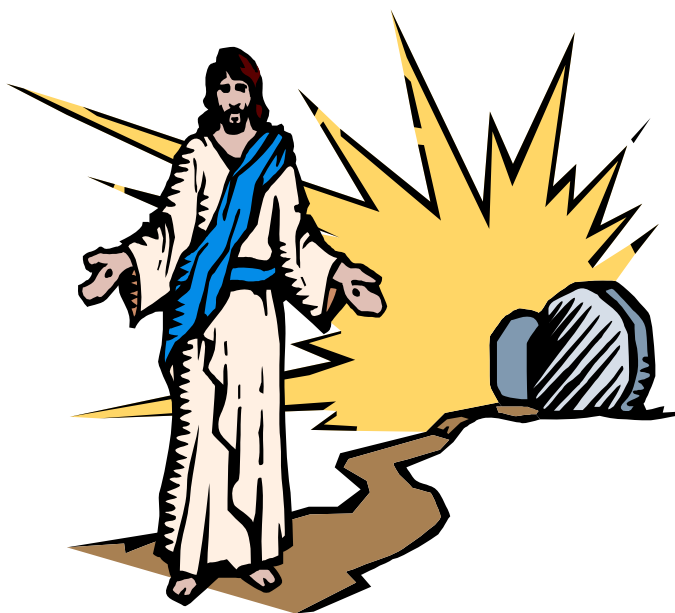
Ct. Queen of the Americas #2418 sponsored an Advent Afternoon of Reflection

Ct. Our Lady of La Salette #2499 had a rummage and book sale and also a bulb and plant sale. Provided decorations for the Farewell Dinner for Pastor

Regents – don't forget to send me messages and pictures on special court activities. Thank you. Bea Abshear 15403 Florwood Avenue, Lawndale, CA 90260 tel. 310-970-1067



Ct. Madonna of the Valley #2346 had this picture on the front of the Sunday bulletin for St. Joseph the Worker Church along with a full page article on the inside.



Alleluia He is Risen !!