



Catholic Daughters of the Americas



New Mexico State Court

December 2019

Message from the State Regent



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Dear Sisters in Christ,

*“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the Lord rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.”*
Isaiah 60:1-3



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Another year has swiftly gone by, and we are surrounded by the bright festive and joyful mood of the yuletide season. As we take part in the beautiful and joyous celebrations of the Christmas season, let us be mindful of the real reason that we take part in this blessed Christmas season. For God so loved the world, he gave his only son that we might have life everlasting.

Can we take in the real meaning of “life everlasting” as we are witnessing the destructive attitude of “denying life” to those who cannot defend their “Right to Life”? Dear Sisters in Christ, we cannot be “shy” about defending God’s gift to us: Life from beginning to natural end.

I am proud of what has been accomplished in our State of New Mexico as we, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, alongside a multitude of citizens stood before the powerful to voice our dissent against legalizing “abortion and euthanasia”. With the power of God beside us, we won this battle. It is not over, my dear Sister, but we will be there again and again until we change some hearts for Life! THANK YOU CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS! I am PROUD to be your Regent!

I wish you and your families a Blessed and Joyous Christmas Day to celebrate the birth of our Saviour!

In Unity and Charity,
Angela Herrera, Regent
New Mexico State Court

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.



Today the JCDA motto of “Be Useful” and the goals of “Love God, Serve Others, and Live Nobly” resounds in our great state of New Mexico. We have been blessed this past year with the Institution of 2 Junior Catholic Daughters courts in 2019 with another JCDA Institution scheduled for January 18, 2020.

Our first JCDA Court Our Lady of the Holy Rosary #1359 in Belen, NM with 20 Charter members installed on March 10, 2019. The sponsoring court is Our Lady of Belen Court #1359. Our Second JCDA Court Immaculate Heart of Mary #2276 in Santa Rosa, NM was Instituted on May 19, 2019 in Santa Rosa, NM, sponsored by Court Santa Rosa de Lima #2276. These young girls have blossomed with the full support of their families and the Local Courts in all their service projects.

Court San Jose #2252 in Carlsbad is sponsoring our next JCDA court. The girls have chosen the name La Rosa de Guadalupe #2252. These young ladies are eager and ready to be part of something that makes a difference in their Parish and Communities, to grow, learn and practice their Catholic Faith.

To have JCDA in New Mexico is important to continue the growth of Catholic Daughters of the Americas. I am delighted to be part of this mission, if your Court is interested in sponsoring a JCDA Court you may contact Yvette Griego, 1st Vice Regent/JCDA State Chairman ygriego@newmexicocatholicdaughters.org or 575-799-5189. Merry Christmas and May God’s Blessings be upon you throughout the New Year.

Your Sister in Christ,
Yvette Griego
1st State Vice Regent



The Legend of Sankta Lucia

December 13th is the day that Swedes and others all over the world honor the legend of Saint Lucia. For many, many years Lucia has brought faith, hope, and a reason to believe in good things to come. Her legend stems from Syracuse on the island of Sicily. It is thought that during a time when the rulers of the land did not look favorably upon Christianity, a woman named Lucia had devoted her life to God and the poor. She gave her entire dowry to the poor, and the man she was to marry was very upset by this. Lucia was put on trial, refused to renounce her Christian beliefs and was declared a witch. She was to be burned at the stake but when the guards tried to light the fire it would not light. Ultimately, she was stabbed.

There are many theories on how the legend of Lucia came to Sweden. It could have been brought by priests, German traders or even by the Vikings in their adventures to southern Europe. No one knows just how it evolved into the uniquely Swedish tradition it is today, and there are many versions of a Swedish Sankta Lucia story.

One popular version is a story of a terrible famine many years ago. On December 13th a well-lit ship on Lake Vannern approached the shore carrying a woman at the helm dressed in white with a glow around her head. Having heard the Italian version the starving people thought it could be Saint Lucia coming to save them from this terrible famine.

Many Swedes believe that the Swedish version of the legend has to do only with the fact that Lucia comes from the root word “Lux” which means light.

The tradition of celebrating St. Lucia in Sweden really did not start to evolve until the late 1800’s. Many families today celebrate it in their homes. The eldest daughter dresses in a long white gown with a red ribbon tied at the waist. She dons a crown of fresh greens and lit candles on her head.

Copied from ingebretsens.com



Dates to Remember

January 19, 2020: Sanctity of Life Day

July 15 – 19, 2020 – National Convention in Dallas, TX

Please remember to provide strong and positive support by all Catholic Daughters and Courts across the state to be active participants during the upcoming legislative session for Pro-Life and Abortion and End of Life legislation that might be coming up. Let's be present as much as we can at the hearings or by telephone, letter writing and petition signing. Hope to see you in Santa Fe on January 19th for Sanctity of Life Sunday!



**Advent by Candlelight
November 24th**

Hosted by Courts San Jose #2252 and Saint Maurus #2601

A special invitation was sent out to Catholic Daughters across the State and to the women in the community of Carlsbad and surrounding areas. In addition to your State Regent, the event was well attended by local and young women. The evening's main speaker was Linda Sepulveda, the Library Director at Norbertine.



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Court Saint Joseph on the Rio Grande #2523

Encouraged by the Archbishop to make pilgrimage for healing of the abused, Court members visited the Shrine of Saint Bernadette in Albuquerque in November.

*For those in our State and Local Courts experiencing illness, we pray:
Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

OurCatholicPrayers.com

*For those in our State and Local Courts experiencing the loss of loved ones, we pray:
O sweet mother Mary, who knew the sadness of mourning those your heart loved most, Jesus, your Son, and Joseph, your devoted spouse, pray for us in our time of loss. Amen. Catholic.org
Please keep our National Representative, Connie Dronette, in your prayers on the recent loss of her brother.*

Happy Advent my dear sisters,

Brrr!!! It has been snowing a lot here in Ranchos de Taos, reminding us that winter is upon us. We are in the middle of the Advent Season. This is a period of hope and of waiting for the gift we will receive when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. As your own court prepares for your Christmas celebrations, remember to think about those members in our communities who are less fortunate and for those individuals for whom this time of year is stressful and less than enjoyable. These individuals need our prayers and charity. In the spirit of Christmas, we ask the Lord to enlighten our minds and warm our hearts as we reach out to others. The St. Andrew Novena is a great prayer that invites us to ponder the presence of Jesus and his Mother Mary in our lives.

May the Christ child bring his light and hope into your hearts. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas and enjoy all the joy of God's grace in the new year.

Dr. Catherine Collins
Second Vice State Regent



St Andrew Christmas Novena

{To be prayed 15 times every day from November 30th until Christmas}

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

Mention your intention after praying the Novena



Duties of the State Secretary

- ▶ Keep the minutes of the state board meetings, record and transcribe the minutes of State Court Biennial Convention and send notice for meetings when directed by the State Regent.
- ▶ Issue notices to the state and local court officers at the request of the State Regent.
- ▶ Receive all membership changes from local courts and maintain state records on local court membership.
- ▶ Issue the notice of state dues based on membership for the periods ending March 31 and September 30.
- ▶ Receive all monies for the state including the state dues from the local courts, debit and credit each local court for same, transmit to the State Treasurer all funds collected.
- ▶ Approve and sign the vouchers from the State Regent for expenses of the State Court, State Officers, and State Chairmen.
- ▶ Represent the State at meetings of the National Court. Expenses may be paid by the State Court.
- ▶ Perform other such duties as may be necessary for transaction of business of the State Court or as directed by the State Regent.

So long 2019 and Hello 2020!

As another year comes to a close, let us look back at another successful Catholic Daughters of the Americas year! For myself it was a year of significant change and as I hit the ground running and learning. I would like to thank you all for your support. Catholic Daughters are a powerful group of women and I look forward to marching with you on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 in Santa Fe for Sanctity of Life Awareness and Unity Day! Remember to wear purple and we will see you at Noon for Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis, then process to the roundhouse immediately following Mass.



The Circle of Love. Let us take a look back at our CDA year and begin composing your submissions. Don't forget the submissions need to be mailed to specified State Chairman before March 1, 2020. The forms were emailed to all Regents on October 1, 2019. Your local Circle of Love Chairman can always use input on the best activity to write about, so members talk with one another and turn in your forms to the individual State Chairmen! 100% participation is the goal! Come Ladies, let's see those submissions!

In closing, my warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful Christmas surrounded by your precious family. May peace, love, and prosperity follow you always, many blessings for the coming year!

Jessica Chavez-Lance
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JCDA Court #2252, La Rosa de Guadalupe, in Carlsbad will be instituted in January 2020. State Sponsor is 1st Vice State Regent Yvette Griego. Senior Court San Jose #2252 is their local CDA sponsor. Pictured left are the attendees at the second formation meeting, with Yvette Griego, 1st Vice State Regent (in the back row), State Regent Angela Herrera, and Regent Mary Rodriguez from Court San Jose #2252.

CDA New Mexico State Officers

State Regent	1st Vice State Regent	2nd Vice State Regent	State Secretary	State Treasurer	State Chaplain
Angela Herrera	Yvette Griego	Dr. Catherine Collins	Rosie Duran	Jessica Chavez-Lance	Msgr. Anthony Bolman



NATIONAL REGENT'S MESSAGE

December 2019

My Dear Sisters in Christ,

I cannot believe that it is the Christmas season! Time passes so quickly. Don't let this holy season pass you by in a flurry of activity. I know that you have much to do with your family, friends, and with your court, but make time for just you and God. It will not matter if you fail to bake a pie or if your Christmas cards are a little late. It will matter a great deal if you don't take advantage of the graces available this Christmas through tradition, prayer, and the Eucharistic.

While many of us because of our work schedules may not have the opportunity to attend daily Mass, participating in traditional Christmas activities can bring us closer to God, to our family, and to the Universal Church. For example, bringing the family together to light the candle in the Advent wreath each evening does not take very long, but it can help each family member to know that Jesus is the light of the world, and that His light is within each us. Knowing that can make a big difference as to how we interact with others throughout the Christmas season.

History attributes the first live Nativity scene to St. Francis of Assisi. It is believed that the first Nativity scene using clay figures was built in Italy in the 15th century. Believing it was an important way of sharing the faith, Franciscan Friars brought the tradition of the Nativity scene to the new world. Building your Nativity scene with your children and grandchildren is a wonderful way to teach them the Christmas story. Putting a Nativity scene together with court members can be a very spiritual activity that can lead into a wonderful evening of prayer and fellowship. Each family or court member might be willing to share what gift they would like to bring to the Child Jesus this Christmas.

Of course, the best prayer of all is the celebration of the Eucharist. Most churches have at least two or three Masses a day. Search the internet for the Mass schedules of churches near you. With some creative juggling of your schedule, you may be able to attend Mass more frequently than you think. It may be a bit of a sacrifice in the beginning, but God is never outdone. Allow the Lord to love you this Christmas. He will bless you abundantly with the nourishment that your soul is craving.

Thank you for sharing your newsletters with me. I am truly impressed by all that you are doing in the name of CDA for God's people. You are truly God's hand and feet on earth! Thank you as well for the wonderful invitations to Christmas parties and Anniversaries. I truly wish I could be with you. Know that I am with you in spirit. More importantly, I am joined with you in prayer for your health and protection and for the protection and healing of those you love. Let us also pray together for the work of CDA. May all we do be for the glory and for the honor of God and may God's peace and joy be with you this Christmas and always!

Olga Samaniego, National Regent

“Humility ... Inspires us to do and attempt great things.”



Dear Catholic Daughters and friends:

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.” (Matt. 11:29)

Humility is one of the virtues most characteristic of Jesus. It is the only virtue that he explicitly said that we should learn of Him. *“Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart.”*

Humility is also one of the most misunderstood and least appreciated of the virtues. It is not the virtue of the weak; it is the virtue of the strong.

Humility is not an inferiority complex, a negative self image, a cringing, fawning obsequiousness. It is not the denial of the talents I have. That would be a lie, and a lie can never be a virtue, it is a sin. It doesn't mean that we hide our talents. The Lord warned us about hiding our talents in the parable of the talents. If we hide them we lose them. Humility instead of suppressing our actions, inspires us to do and attempt great things because we are only instruments in the hand of God. We can do anything God wants us to do. We can *“launch out into the deep and cast our net for a catch.”* Mary said in her Magnificat: *“He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name.”*

Humility does not mean that we let people run over us. That would not be good for them and it surely wouldn't be good for us. Justice is the substratum, the foundation, of love. Fraternal correction is an essential part of love. Jesus was simple as a dove in life-style and doctrine, meek and humble of heart but also thick skinned, tough as nails and wise as a serpent. He knew what was in man and was no respecter of persons. He called a spade a spade and went right to the heart of the matter. He called the Pharisees frauds and hypocrites and drove the buyers and sellers out of the temple.

Humility is truth. It is true that I am a feeble, fickle, fallible, sinful human being. But it is also true that I am gifted, graced, unique and indispensable. I am an unrepeatable gift of God. I have this inner core goodness that nothing can destroy. And in spite of all my physical warts, psychological quirks and spiritual infidelities God loves me unconditionally with a love I cannot merit or ever be worthy of.

Humility is truth. And the truth is: I am *“we.”* And *“we”* is mostly Thee. In other words *“we”* represents the Indwelling of the Blessed Trinity. The truth is that God is the ground of my being. God is in me as the song is in the singer and the dance in the dancer. Without God I would not even exist. *“In him we live and move and have our being.”* (Acts 17:28) The absolutely self- autonomous self, the self without God, is the *“false self”* that exists only in my imagination.

“Learn of me that I am meek and humble of heart and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOUL.” It is the proud who are restless. They are always in competition, in the rat-race. They always have to be number one. They value themselves according to their possessions, productivity and success. The proud are always having to prove themselves. Remember, the motto at Eastern Airlines was: *“We have to earn our wings every day.”* Evidently, they didn't because they are no longer winging it.

We don't have to prove anything to God. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He loves us not because of what we are but because of WHO he is. All we have to do is to drop our masks, come down off the pedestal and just be me. And be happy to be me. And we will find rest for our soul, and give great praise and glory to God.

The way to humility is through humiliations. So today when you are humiliated, and you will be, maybe two or three times, instead of being upset and disturbed, be glad and rejoice because you are on your way to humility where you will find peace and rest for your soul. And He who is mighty can do great things for you.

Father Edward Lamp, National Clergy Consultant
