

AUGUST 2025

THE MARIAN MESSENGER

Monthly Newsletter of the New Mexico Catholic Daughters of the Americas



perhaps you were created for such a time as this...

ESTHER 4:14



Dear Sisters in Christ,

As we welcome the month of August, we are reminded that summer is slowly giving way to the beauty of fall. For many of us, this is a season of preparation—teachers and students return to school, parish ministries are picking back up, and we begin planning for the months ahead.

In the Church, August is a month rich in Marian devotion, with the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 15. Mary's "yes" continues to be a model for us as Catholic Daughters—serving with love and humility. May we look to her as our guide in every act of service and faith.



This month, I especially encourage you to register to attend our upcoming retreat which will be held September 26-27 in Belen. This is a special time set aside just for you—to rest, renew, and reconnect with the Lord and with one another. Our retreat theme goes hand in hand with our state theme and will help guide us as we reflect on our role as Catholic Daughters and the dignity we hold as women of faith. These moments of stillness and reflection are so important for renewing our strength. I truly hope you will make time to join us. AND...I miss all of you since our time together at convention! There's never enough time, in my opinion.

I am so proud of and grateful for the work YOU continue to do in your courts and communities. From service projects to supporting our seminarians and local charities, you are living out our motto, Unity and Charity, in beautiful, faithful ways.

Let us continue to lift each other in prayer and walk together in grace as we move through this season. I look forward to seeing many of you at the retreat and upcoming events and sharing in the joy of our sisterhood.

With love and in faith,

Crystal Montoya

State Regent

Our Mission

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.



Back to School Blessings

A Student's Prayer:

Dear Lord, use my eyes to see new friends.
Open my ears to hear my teacher.
Open my mind to learn new things. Let my
heart remember you are near when
I'm afraid. Help me to love others like you
do. I want to shine your light so bright
in my school. Help me to treat everyone with
the love of You, in your name we pray.
Amen.

A Prayer for Teachers:

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the
earth and teaches us in your ways. Look
upon our teachers as they teach our
children. Let the teachers show them
kindness, caring and guidance that is with
Your teachings, in Your name we pray.
Amen.

We live in hard times, and some students that are going back to school, cannot afford item like others. Please reach out and assist, buy school supplies and drop them off at your local school. Call your local school and see if there is a family in need of clothes, or food. It makes it very hard to study on an empty stomach. Call your local school and see if you can volunteer in the classroom assisting the teacher or being a reader for Storytime. Call your local church and see if you can assist with religious education classes. Open your hearts to show the love of Our Lord, be the shining light for our children. Remember they are our future without them we are nothing!

Debbie Maestas, State Secretary



From Earth to Heaven

Bernadette Pina Garcia, Second Vice State Regent

The Assumption of Mary ~ August 15th

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates the dogma of the Church that Mary was taken body and soul into Heaven at the end of her earthly life. Although belief in Mary's assumption had been widespread since the third century, it was not until 1950 that Pope Pius XII declared the belief as dogma in his Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*. In it he writes, "the revered Mother of God ... finally obtained, as the supreme culmination of her privileges, that she should be preserved free from the corruption of the tomb and that, like her own Son, having overcome death, she might be taken up body and soul to the glory of heaven" (MD 40).

The Solemnity of the Assumption is a Holy Day of Obligation

Let us pray: "Mary, assumed into heaven, we venerate you as the Queen of Heaven and earth. As you tasted the bitterness of pain and sorrow with your Son on earth, you now enjoy eternal bliss with Him in Heaven. Loving queen, intercede for us in our needs." Amen.



Saints of Prayer and Purpose



St. Monica- August 27th

Patron Saint of Wives and Abuse Victims

Saint Monica is the mother of Saint Augustine. She is the patron saint of difficult marriages, disappointing children, victims of adultery or unfaithfulness, victims of verbal abuse, and the conversion of relatives. Saint Monica was always faithful to the Lord and faithfully prayed for the conversion of her son for 32 years. She is famous for saying: "A child of so many tears will not be lost." Let us Pray: "St. Monica, I need your prayers. You know exactly how I'm feeling because you once felt it yours. I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair. I desperately want my child to return to Christ in his Church but I can't do it alone. I need God's help. Please join me in begging the Lord's powerful grace to flow into my child's life. Ask the Lord Jesus to soften his heart, prepare a path for his conversion, and activate the Holy spirit in his life. "

St. Augustine-August 28th

St. Augustine is one of the most famous converts and theologians of the Catholic Church. His conversion was largely influenced by his mother, St. Monica, as well as St. Ambrose, who was the Bishop of Milan and friend to both Monica and Augustine. St. Augustine became the Bishop of Hippo (modern day Algeria) as well as a renowned theologian. His notable theological works include Confessions, City of God, and On Christian Doctrine. His works have heavily influenced Western thought and led to Augustine being named a Doctor of the Church.



Liturgical Living

Priscilla Bustos, First Vice State Regent



Hello ladies,

What a blessing it is to be able to reach out to you all monthly through our newsletter. It has been a very busy summer and I know we are all going back to our monthly meetings. I was asked to touch a bit on liturgical living, and so I hope you all find this as interesting as I did while researching what to put in my letter so let's begin.

What is "liturgical living"? Liturgical living is a growing movement in Catholic circles that refers to practices that help the faithful to participate in the faith everyday, in practical ways such as special foods or thoughtful activities. However you incorporate liturgical living into your day to day, this practice is all about embracing the unique perspective each feast day offers to our faith. I have included an activity for you all to try, this is Saint Teresa of Calcutta, I hope you will all give it a try.

September 5 ~ Saint Mother Teresa

Saint Mother Teresa established the Missionaries of Charity and have homes all over the world for the dying, the sick, orphaned children, lepers, the elderly, the disabled and the unloved. St. Teresa saw beauty in all of these people who were abandoned or rejected by others and gave them love and care. She taught the missionaries to "keep the joy of loving the poor and share this joy with all that you meet and to remember works of love are works of peace." The homeless, hungry, unloved, sick or dying individuals were washed, and given food. Talk about all of your blessings and those less fortunate than you. Talk about how there are many people in the world that do not get to eat and live like we do and must go hungry and uncomfortable for lack of food and shelter and love from others.

Activity:

Go to a homeless shelter and help, call a homeless shelter and ask what food items you can donate and do that today, or make a bag of blessings for the homeless. You can make the bag and take it to where you know homeless usually are, or you can keep it in your car for the next time you encounter a homeless person and give them a bag of blessings!

Make a Bag of Blessings Together

(Go to your local store or dollar store and you and your child or court pick out)

- A bag
- Toothbrush and toothpaste set
- Bottle water
- Deodorant
- Canned food or food items
- Vitamins
- Forks & Spoons
- Socks

Wipes (remember that not everyone has a shower)

- Ball caps or thermal hat
- Band-Aids

Make sure you add prayer cards, Bible verses printed out! (you can make prayer cards or acquire some from your church). You can also get a gift card for fast food chain to include and get your child a treat while you are there spending time with them and talk about Saint Mother Teresa, homelessness and how blessed your family is. Talk about how good it feels to help others in need, and how we can do this on any level with others. I hope you enjoyed this and will give it a try.

State Officer Conference

Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, AZ

The Catholic Daughters State Officer Conference was an inspiring and productive gathering that brought together state leaders from across the country. It focused on leadership development, faith formation, and organizational growth. There was a strong sense of sisterhood, renewed commitment to service, and energized officers to lead with faith, integrity, and purpose for our local courts. And we had a whole lot of fun, too!

Retail Therapy!



Group picture with National Regent Susan Mone



Beautiful shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Our new friends from South Dakota!



The whole crew!



Catholic Daughters of the Americas



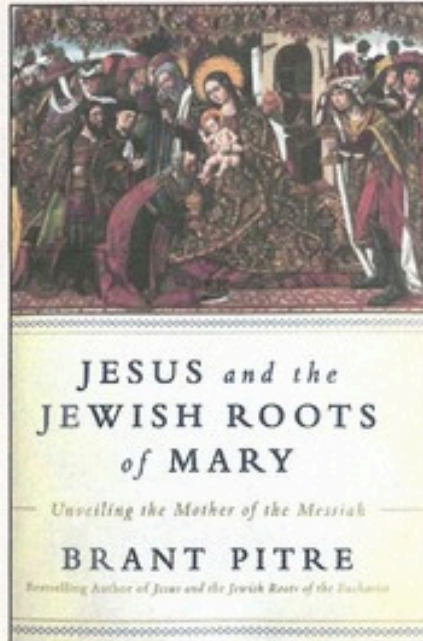
Virtual Book Club

Join us in reading

“Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary”

Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah,” by Brant Pitre

**Monday
September 15, 2025**



**Every Monday
For
6-8 Weeks**

4:00 p.m. Pacific Time, 5:00 p.m. Mountain, 6:00 p.m. Central, 7:00 p.m. Eastern

For Zoom link or more information

RSVP to Susan Killian

susankillian@gmail.com • 909-519-3719

Facilitators: Fr. Erick Villa, Connie Dronette, Susan Killian

Ready to start your JCDA Court?

YES? Okay, let's do it!

- First and foremost, PRAY ABOUT IT. JCDA members are the FUTURE OF CDA!
- Download and PRINT the JCDA Procedure Manual
- Secure your Chair & Co-Chair (Chairman must be an active member of local CDA Court. Co-Chairman not required to be a member of local court.)
- Contact your State Regent indicating interest to sponsor a JCDA Court.
- JCDA Court will be listed as additional insurance on Sponsoring Courts Liability Insurance.
- Email Tree has been established to allow JCDA Chairmen to communicate and ask questions of other JCDA Courts throughout the nation.

Prayer to Know My Vocation

*Lord, my God and my loving Father,
You have made me to know You, to love You, to serve You,
and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings.
I know that You are in all things, and that every path can
lead me to You.
But of them all, there is one especially by which You want
me to come to You.
Since I will do what You want of me,
I pray that You send Your Holy Spirit to me:
into my mind, to show me what You want of me;
into my heart, to give me the determination to do it,
and to do it with all my love, with all my mind,
and with all of my strength right to the end.
Jesus, I trust in you.
Amen.*



Court Anniversaries

St. Alice 2666

Mountainair

August 3, 2013

Sangre de Cristo 2229

Questa

August 16, 1981

Our Lady of Guadalupe 2509

Taos

August 18, 2002





FAITH IN ACTION



COURT SAN JOSE & JCDA COURT LA ROSA DE GUADALUPE #2252 ~ CARLSBAD



CDA & JCDA members were blessed to help prepare for Operation School Bell which is a program that supplies brand new school clothes for underprivileged children. It's an honor to serve our community and help local children start the school year with confidence and care.

COURT OUR LADY OF SORROWS #1301 ~ LAS VEGAS



Court Our Lady of Sorrows #1301 hosted the reception for our newly ordained Deacons.

Deacon Ricardo Maestas and Deacon Eugene Brizal. (right picture leading us in prayer).

Left picture are CDA members Valerie Villa-Lopez, Cathy Gallegos, Camen Gurien, Priscilla Bustos, Arlene Martinez, Ellie Baca, Elvie Gutierrez, Ana Roybal, Marie Torres, Pearl Medina, Theresa Medina, and Norma Valdez.



LA GUADALUPANA #2074 ~ POJOAQUE



Members of Court La Guadalupana gathered to pray the Rosary together.

COURT SANTA CRUZ #1298 ~ LAS CRUCES



Court 1298 is having their annual pancake sale on August 17th at St. Genevieve's Church from 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

HELP US MAKE OUR NEWSLETTERS SHINE!

Send in your photos from recent events, activities, or special moments. Your memories make it meaningful and allows courts across the state to know what our CDA sisters are up to! Please email photos with a caption by the 25th of each month to:

NMCDAnews@gmail.com



FAITH IN ACTION



SACRED HEART #2242 ~ RANCHOS DE TAOS



Court Sacred Heart #2242 in Ranchos de Taos celebrated the annual “The Feast Day of San Isidro.” Past State Regent and current Regent Dr. Catherine Collins along with State Secretary Debbie Maestas serve as the “Mayordomos” for the Capilla of San Isidro. CDA members Denise, Sharon, Irene, and Brenda all helped with the preparation and feeding of the parish community on our annual feast day. Steven, also shown in the photo, is the incoming Mayordomo for the Capilla. Our day began with setting up the parish hall for the meal, then setting up for the feast day Mass and continuing with the Procession to the blessing of the river and the fields where each parishioner was presented with a prayer card, a medal of San Isidro and a packet of flower seeds. The seeds all came from the flowers garden of the mother church of San Francisco de Asís. It was a beautiful day. Our day ended with feeding the almost 100 individuals a delicious meal. What a blessed day for all in attendance.

Prayer to San Isidro Labrador

Loving God, on this feast day of San Isidro, we offer our humble prayers. We thank you for the example of this devoted husbandman, who tilled the earth with diligence and faith. Grant us, through his intercession, a love for the land and a respect for the fruits of your creation. Bless all those who work the soil, providing sustenance for our communities. May their labor be fruitful, and may they always look to you, as San Isidro did, for guidance and strength. We ask for your continued blessings upon our fields and gardens, that they may yield a bountiful harvest. May we learn from San Isidro's piety and generosity, striving always to honor you in our work and to share your gifts with those in need. Amen

OUR LADY OF FATIMA #1293 ~ ROSWELL

By Rosie Duran, IPSR
Vice – Regent, Court Our Lady of Fatima #1293

Summer with the Apostles: Studying Acts While on Break

CDA’s take a break from their meetings and events to rest up during the summer months and return refreshed in the fall. Catholic Daughters from Roswell, NM took the opportunity to meet weekly and work through “The Acts of the Apostles” study through IGNATIUS Catholic Study Bible programs by Scott Hahn and Curtix Mitch. Member AnnMarie Oldfield is leading the bible study and has prepared worksheets for participants to work through before and during the class. AnnMarie is a lifetime educator and very well versed in bible studies.

Non-members were also invited! This study has allowed us to keep in touch with each other in prayer and study. Members attend Adoration afterward, which results in a wonderful spiritual experience with our sisters! May we continue to learn, grow and lead the way the Apostles did as we grow in understanding.

Here is the link to purchase the study. <https://ignatius.com/cart.php?suggest=706ede89-f692-4523-b6b1-494b5b4c92b2> If you are interested in the worksheets, send an email to rduranca@gmail.com, and we will send them out to you.



✦ NM State Court ✦



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STATE CDA WEBSITE



NATIONAL CDA WEBSITE



STATE CDA FACEBOOK GROUP



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NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Please submit any comments, suggestions, and Local CDA and JCDA Court news items to the Newsletter Committee at

NMCDAnews@gmail.com

DEADLINE IS THE 25TH OF EACH MONTH