



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS CALIFORNIA STATE COURT
GOLDEN STATE TIDINGS



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THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH
AND DWELT AMONG US

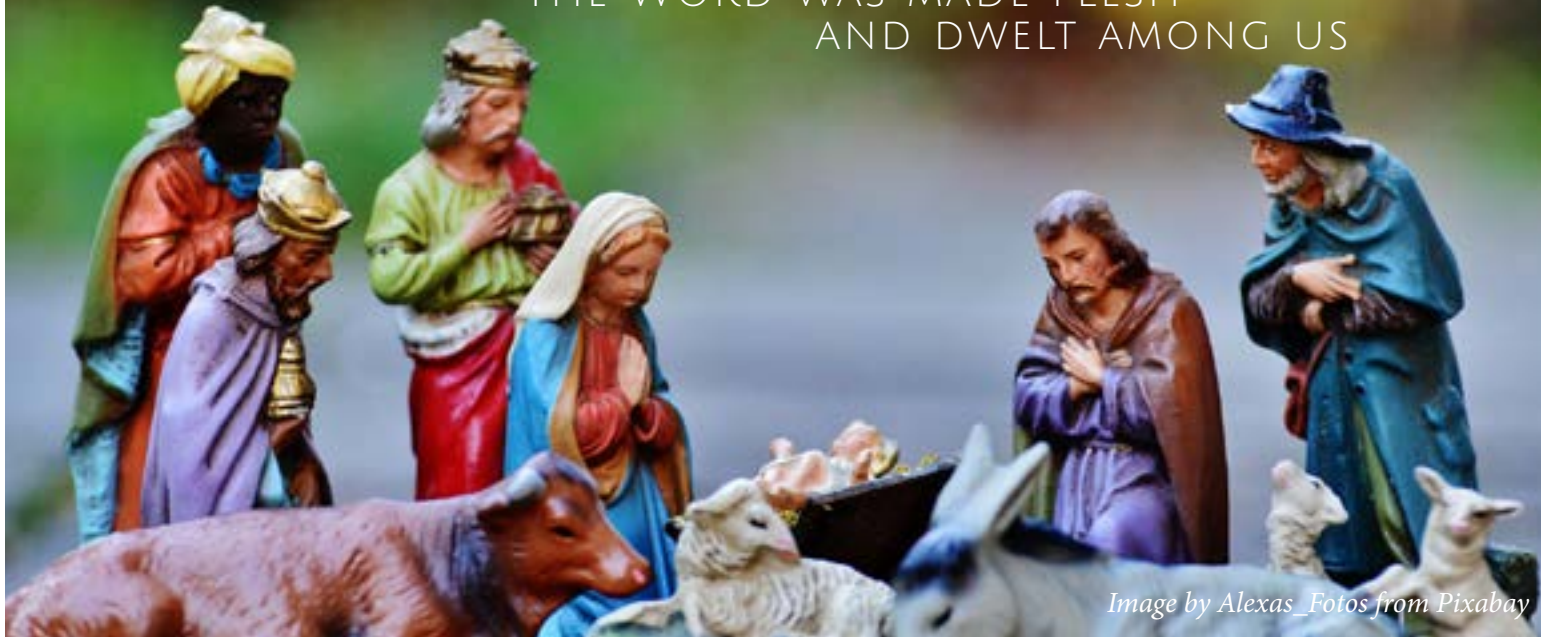


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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Stephen Porter



Greetings my sisters, or should I say, daughters? No sisters, as we are brothers and sisters of Jesus, and you are daughters of Almighty God!

Blessings for a very holy Advent season – a time when we Christians prepare ourselves for the great feasts coming up, and yet the crazy world is already celebrating something they know not what! For us, it is a time to be joyful – the entrance antiphons in the Masses of Advent emphasize this, with the special third Sunday (I hope your priests wear Rose vestments that day!) antiphon: Gaudete in Domino semper – rejoice in the Lord always! – as we prepare (and yes, shop) for the decorations, gifts and foods we want to share with our families and friends. But let's not forget to prepare our spirits and souls with prayer – confession would be great! – frequent reception of Holy Communion (maybe daily Mass during Advent?), and other acts of service of those less well off than ourselves. Doing good, and giving of ourselves, helps us prepare bodily and spiritually for the great gift that God has for us – his new born Son – and the new life that Jesus offers us.

I have recently been given a couple of new books – both are short and by the same author, Rose Sweet – and both are fascinating (especially to me – a man!) The first is entitled “A Catholic Woman’s Guide to Happiness” and the second “A Catholic Woman’s Guide to Romance”, and both, in a series of short stories, meditations, and reflections, offer some insight into the way of the Catholic Woman in the modern world. I can tell you I have learnt a lot from them (one of them even quotes me!) They will make fine reading for all Catholic Daughters, and great stocking stuffers for your friends and family (yes, even perhaps the men!)

As the world exhausts itself with “happy holidaying,” partying, and reacting to what the world cannot understand, we, as Catholic women and men, are proactive in understanding what God reveals to us – unconditional love at all times, love of our faith – Catholic, of our families – Daughters, of our country – America, and all God asks in return is that what we so freely receive we so freely share. Merry Christmas!

Blessings,
Fr. Steve

Welcome New Courts

Court St. Bernard #2758

Regent:

Dawn Fortenberry

Address:

44475 Daniel Guidry Rd.
Saint Amant, LA 70774

Court Circle of Love #2756

Regent:

Tricia O’Neill

Address:

4623 39th St
Zachary, LA 70791

Court St. James #2757

Regent:

Brenda Anderson

Address:

P.O. Box 111
Roscoe, SD 57471

NATIONAL SUPERVISOR

Susan Moné, Second Vice National Regent



Prepare the Way of the Lord! My choir sings this beautiful song every Advent. What special words to focus on as we have been traveling through the 4 weeks of Advent. Each year we are given another chance to once again take extra time for prayer,

fasting and doing good works in the name of the Lord. We are given time to prepare ourselves to celebrate the Birth of Our Savior Jesus Christ. He came not born in a great palace of royal birth, but in a simple dark, dirty (and I'm sure, smelly) stable of poor and humble parents.

It is all too easy to get busy in the fun and festivities of decorating our house and tree, shopping for that perfect gift, holiday parties and Christmas baking and so much more to forget the "Reason for the Season" and to especially remember those who won't have a Christmas celebration, or gifts under a tree, or a special Christmas meal around a table of family and friends. We need to see the newborn Christ Child in them.

I pray that over these weeks you have made that extra time to Prepare the Way of the Lord—Another chance to start anew in our life. As we get ready to welcome in the New Year, we once again have a chance for a new beginning in our life. In continuing our CDA

work to help to make our church, community and our world a welcoming place to the faces of the many people we minister to, we see the newborn Christ in everyone. We need to begin each day as if it were Christmas and continue to live with the spirit and kindness of Christ birth.

You are all truly a blessing to Catholic Daughters and I will pray on Christmas for you that the Christ Child will bless you and your family with health and happiness and that the New Year will be the New Beginning that you deserve as you serve Him daily.

God's peace and love,
Susan Moné

Prayers needed...

Please pray for Doug Moné, husband of our National Supervising Officer, Susan Moné .

John had a heart attack on November 21st and is still having problems. His recovery has had complications.



CALL TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

It's time to make court plans to attend the next CDA National Convention to be held on July 15-19, 2020, at the downtown Sheraton Hotel in Dallas, Texas. Hotel reservations can now be made by calling Marriott Central Reservations at 1-888-627-8191. Ask for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas rate. The first Call to Convention will be mailed to courts in December. Delegate sheets will be a separate mailing.

Image by [Виктория Бородинова](#) from Pixabay

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 25

Christmas Day

January 1

New Years Day

January 6

Epiphany

January 17

March for Life -
Washington DC

February 1

Education Contest Deadline
for Local Courts

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 17

JCDA Sunday

STATE REGENT

Mary Bernard



I hope everyone that had to be evacuated from the fires is now home safe and sound. Ed and I were evacuated, ours was the Saddle Ridge Fire. I would have liked a better way for my road to be famous, than with the start of a fire. This is the third time we have been evacuated. We cannot thank our brave firefighters enough for all their hard work. I pray for them every day.

As we look forward to entering the season of Advent, let us take some time in our busy lives to slow down and take time to memorize the moments of grace, the people and the places around us.

I came across this story a while ago, and would like to share it with you...A young man who had recently lost his sight said, "I wish I had taken the time to memorize the people and places I love so that I could see them more clearly now with my mind's eye."

Learn from his experience. Pause several times today. Standing wherever you are, count your blessings. Memorize the people that you love and the places that you have visited. So that at any given time, you can close your eyes and see them clearly.

I would like to end with a Christmas Blessing:

Christmas means a gift of peace no words can quite impart.

Christmas means a gift of love that blesses every heart.

Christmas brings a gift of hope, to guard us on our way.

May all these blessed gifts be ours this year on Christmas Day.

Ed and I wish you and your families a Blessed Joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Image by Eze-Photos from Pixabay

1ST VICE STATE REGENT

Tess Chiampas



Summer has come and gone and I didn't even feel we're into the fall season as yet. I'm not sure about you but I sure did enjoy my summer by visiting local courts that I supervise and courts that are in Southern California. I went as far as Los Angeles, Redding, San Jose, Pittsburg, and

almost all courts in the Oakland Diocese. I had the privilege of attending their special events, and great and fun court meetings.

Now that we're back from our summer hiatus, I would like to remind everyone that the State store now carries sets of Warrant Sheets. You will find the order

form in the State website under State Store, print a copy of this and send Tess Chiampas at 7400 Limerick Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568 your order along with your court or personal check. You may also send Tess your court's opportunity drawings ticket stubs and checks.

Please be reminded that your court's dues, all membership additions, deletions, and change can be sent to the Second Vice State Regent, Mary Beasley, at 1274 Arnold Way, Alpine, CA 91901.

All other checks may be sent to Maria Santos-Silva at P. O. Box 748 Tulare, CA 93275.

Please let everyone know in your court of this change in order to have your mail delivered to the right officer and on time.

2ND VICE STATE REGENT

Mary Beasley



God bless all my sisters in Christ, as we enter this holiday season, let us not forget all the people and things in our lives that we have, to be thankful for. The Christmas season is a celebration of life, the birth of Jesus. Sure, at times we might get caught up in the cookie swaps, holiday shopping,

and general chaos of the season—but it's important that we never forget the reason for the Season. While it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays, prayer is a wonderful way to bring the focus back to the true meaning of Christmas. These beautiful sayings will bring a little extra love and gratitude to your holiday season:

"The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree is the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other."
—Burton Hills

"Christmas gives us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things around us." —David Cameron

"Love the giver more than the gift." —Brigham Young

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air." —W.T. Ellis

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone." —Charles M. Schulz

"Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection." —Winston Churchill

"Christmas will always be, as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand." —Dr. Seuss

I will leave you with this lovely prayer by Kay Hoffman:

A Prayer About the True Gift of Christmas

The gifts I'd leave beneath your tree, aren't those that you can touch or see,
No toys meant just for pointless play, but gifts to bless you every day.

The gift of friendship warm and true, is one that I would leave for you.

Good health and happiness and cheer, to keep you smiling through the year.

The gift of peace that comes from God, with prayer to guide each path you tread.

And when your heart has lost its song, the gift of hope to cheer you on.

These are the gifts I'd leave for you.

STATE SECRETARY

Maria Santos-Silva



Are we having fun yet? With the Christmas season upon us and as we look forward to what we want and need in the New Year, I find myself looking forward to visiting as many courts as I can. As I look back over this last year, I am grateful for all the

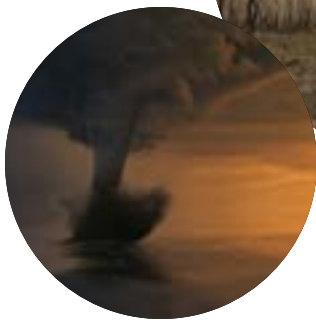
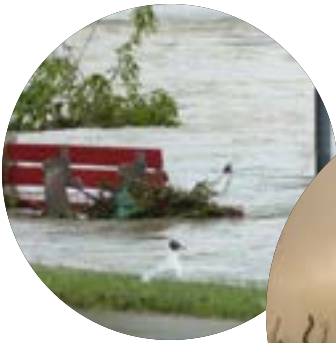
blessings my family and I have enjoyed and for the difficult days, the gift of strength from God and prayers to get through them and the wisdom gained from the experiences.

I am so honored to serve as your CA State Board Secretary, I am so happy that when presented with the opportunity to serve the State Court came to my attention that I stepped up and out of my comfort zone and answered the call to serve.

I ask you to pray and ask yourself, in whatever way you are able; What can I do in the New Year to help my CDA Court help others? No matter if your good deed is big or small just try to step out of your comfort zone and find a new way to get involved. Trust me the blessings will be tenfold. And the new friendships along the way will carry you through so many seasons of your life. Friends who will pray for you now and always in the good time and the difficult ones. The answer to my question; Are we having fun yet? Yes I am Having Fun, Come and Join Me!

May God Bless all of you, Merry Christmas!

National Charity: Disaster Relief



In the blink of an eye our personal world can change because of the devastation of a natural disaster. Hurricanes, wild fires, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes and storms can wreak havoc for individuals and their families.

As Catholic Daughters we can help our brothers and sisters who are going through a trying time in their life. How can we help? CDA Courts can make donations to the National Charities Disaster Fund to help those in need. When a disaster occurs, the State Regent makes an appeal to National describing the extent of the disaster.

Upon review, the funds are sent to the Bishop of the diocese that has been affected and the funds are then distributed.

Please consider making a contribution from your CDA court to the National Charities Disaster Fund. We've all viewed the news reports and seen the current disasters afflicting many families.

Lets make a difference in their recovery by giving generously.

Images by [hans](#), [jplenio](#), [Free-Photos](#), [Kiw Lisa](#), from Pixabay



CIRCLE OF LOVE

Messages from our State Chairmen

Advent For Families

Diana Dottore, Family Chairman

It seems that each year flies by faster than the year before... Where did the time go? What have I accomplished this year? These are just two of the many questions that I hear from associates, family, friends and clients alike!

I think its time to step back, settle ourselves and reflect on the importance of the what the weeks ahead mean to us as Catholic women and our families.

Advent: The Coming of Christ

For Christians, Advent specifically signifies the four weeks leading up to Christmas day. W. T. Ellis said, "It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air." I think it is important during the coming season to "close ranks, huddle with your family and re-connect". We spend so much time shopping for the perfect "gift" for our children, spouses, aunts/uncles/cousins, special friends etc., that we lose the real "gift" of what this season is and what it is meant to give us as Catholic families.

Suggestions for 2019 Advent Season:

- Read Advent Devotions as a Family
- Weekly Devotionals
- Family Activities
- Connection Questions
- Daily Readings for the Family

Create an advent Jesse Tree

This ancient tradition, based on Isaiah 11:1, helps children learn the Christmas story and related Scripture Start with either a small live or artificial tree. If you prefer, cut a tree out of construction paper and tape it to a wall. Select 24 Bible stories and create small ornaments that correspond with each story. Use construction paper, scissors, markers and other art supplies.

Beginning December 1, read and discuss the related Scripture, discuss the Bible account, and then place the ornament on the tree.

Make a Prayer Garland

Cut out 24 green and red construction paper strips. On each strip, write the name of a family member, friend or ministry. Staple the strips as links into one long garland. Hang the garland in your home as decoration.

Build (or Buy) an Advent Box

Several years ago, I purchased a wooden box, painted with beautiful nutcrackers all over the front. The box has 24 small doors, each opening to a hiding place. During the first week of Advent, you can place small toys, candies and inexpensive gifts behind each door.

Use Christmas Cards as Prayer Reminders

As Christmas cards arrive during December, place them in a basket in a noticeable area. Once a day, pull out one card and pray for that person or family together. Keep the Christmas card basket out all year and pray regularly for other families. (You may want to write the person a note signed by your family that says, "We prayed for you today.")

Create (or Buy) Your Own Advent Wreath with Candles

An Advent wreath is helpful and beautifully symbolic of the season. A basic Advent wreath consists of a circle with four candle holders with one candle in the middle. It may be garnished with holly or pine boughs. The Advent wreath can serve as a perfect teaching moment too. Point out the colors to your children, and talk about what they mean.

Sharing your Talents and Knowledge

Candace Armijo, Education Chair

As your education chair, it is a blessing to have such strong prayerful, supportive and caring women to support our cause of Unity and Charity. Many times, we find ourselves focused on the next event or fundraiser that we forget all the lessons learned throughout the process. Through education, we are able to share our talents and knowledge.

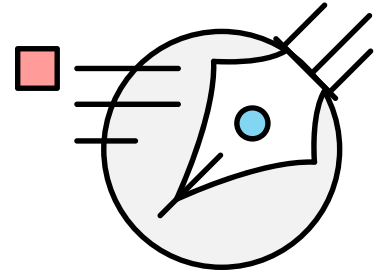


Many times, we feel education should be the responsibility of educators in our school systems and churches. However, we can all be educators. By sharing your faith, experiences, forgiveness with one another, lessons can be learned.

With this year's religious education programs and school year starting, I encourage you all to find ways to reach out to our youth. They are the future of the church and Catholic Daughters of Americas. Here are some ideas to consider:

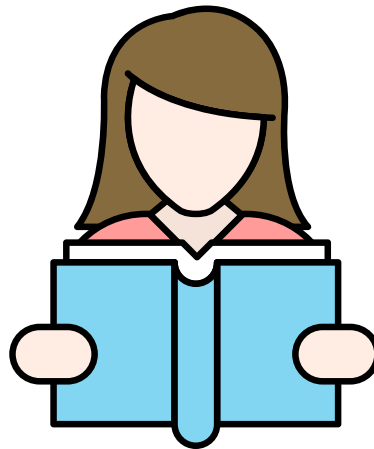
- Volunteer with the Youth ministries or Religious Education classes;

- Volunteer at all church events;
- Offer workshops promoting
- Host events that promote education for today's youth, parents and grandparents.



As the Regent of a new court, there were many lessons learned over the last three years. We asked many courts about the Circle of Love and how to apply ourselves into achieving, educating and promoting the wheels within our Church. I encourage you to meet with other courts, officers and find ways to promote education.

Also, remember the Education Contest was announced. The theme this year is Living in Harmony with others or Blessed are the Peacemakers. In Poetry, Music, Art, Photography, or in an Essay, students and Adult CDA Members have the opportunity to share their many talents and gifts.



Illustrations by [Veleezy](#)

Get ready for the Upcoming CDA Education Contest!

We encourage each court to make a special effort to sponsor the Education Contest. The contest enables students of our communities, schools, and CCD classes to compete and strive for awards while following certain fixed rules.

2020 Education Contest Themes:

Living in Harmony with others or Blessed are the Peacemakers

Local Court Deadline: February 1, 2020

State Court Deadline: March 1, 2020

CIRCLE OF LOVE REPORTS

It is time for your Circle of Love Reports! There are 7 different forms, each representing the different Circle of Love programs. Completed forms are due to the State Chairmen responsible for that particular Circle of Love program. Please see page 11 for contact information:

REPORTING PERIOD: February 1, 2019 - February 1, 2020
DEADLINE: Postmarked by March 1, 2020
MAIL or EMAIL TO: Chairman listed on the individual form

DO NOT MAIL REPORTING FORMS DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL OFFICE. Each State Chairman is responsible for collecting the forms for her particular program.

It is very important that you take the time to complete these forms. Your newsletters and word-of-mouth news indicate that you do many wonderful charitable works that are never reported. Your Circle of Love forms helps us share ideas and improve our programs. We look forward to hearing what innovative and charitable works your court has done!

SERVE FIRST. *then Lead* Karen Aguirre, Leadership Chair

As I began to think about this coming year, I decided to continue the legacy of “Servant Leadership” for the California Courts. No matter what type of authority you may have as a leader, (a wife, mother, teacher, regent, or treasurer), to lead in my mind means always to enable others to become their personal best.

I’ve found that many people today want relationships that help them to focus their energies so that they go beyond even their own expectations. Today’s ‘service leadership’ demands relationships and a sense of community. Of course, this isn’t always easy! Sometimes we work very hard on our projects, banquets and meetings (to the point of blisters on our feet), only to have others complain, lol.

As I contemplated the above painting by Giotto Do Bondone from the 14th century I focused on the service of Our Blessed Mother to her cousin Elizabeth. I’m sure Our Lady worked hard, got tired, (maybe even to the point of blisters) and certainly felt overwhelmed, but she completely relied on prayer and trusted in God; and that is what we need to do as well. Another thing I noticed in this painting was that there are two other women watching the interaction between Mary and Elizabeth...we need to remember that often other

people in our lives are watching the way we handle things, are we mirroring peace, joy, hope, constant prayer, and trust in the Lord?

Think of the women God has put in your life to help you become the women you are today. Who was there for you along your path to help you when you needed it or show you how to make something work a little better?

Good leaders need a focus on service with a vision and a goal, but they need to remember we are in this together.

“God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.”

— Cardinal John Henry Newman

I want to encourage you to constant prayer as we go about our busy schedules and remember to mentor the other women around you!



The Discipleship of Mary

Wyndsey Adams, Spiritual Chair

Lets' take a look at true discipleship; We are called to follow Jesus, to answer YES to a very important relationship. True discipleship only flows from true relationship with Jesus.

Our perfect example of this is Mary. Mary a frightened young girl was the first human being to say Yes to Jesus. So Like Mary we started our discipleship and our relationship in one important Yes.

In tradition and scripture Mary followed Jesus throughout His life and ministry.

Mary "lost" Jesus when he was a child and frantically looked for him. For me, this speaks to those times in life that I have gotten preoccupied with my little world and felt lost. I think that Mary felt this, too. Jesus was not lost; He was in his Fathers' house. Mary teaches us that if we feel lost it is likely us who have wandered away from Jesus, not the other way around. We can always find Him in his Fathers' house.

At the wedding feast in Cana, Mary became aware that the wine had run out. Fearing the embarrassment of the newly married couple, she called to her Son and said "they have no wine" Jesus said to her " Woman

how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." Mary then tells the servants "do whatever he tells you. " She walks away. There are two important messages from Mary here. First she is telling the servants "Do whatever he tells you" She is telling us the same thing. We as disciples are called to live out daily what Jesus told us to do, both in scripture and in our hearts. The second message is in her actions, she walks away. She has already placed her concerns in Jesus' hands and now her total faith informs her that she can leave it there. We learn here to pray and talk with Jesus in the same way. Once we give Jesus our worries and fears we can leave it with him.

In the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry He was aware that we His disciples would always need His mother in our lives and so He said to His beloved disciple "behold your Mother" Not only was He speaking to His beloved disciple, He was speaking to all disciples throughout time. We have been given a great gift in our Mother. She continues to show us true discipleship and is always pointing us to her Son.

Pray for Your Members

Kristin Stewart, Extension/Membership Chair

It's hard to believe how fast the years seem to go by. Time passes whether we want it to or not, and as we think about the Holy Days ahead I am reminded to be still. I am reminded to be REALLY grateful for all of the parts of life both the things that are enjoyable and those that feel like chores.

We welcomed two grandchildren this year into our family and at the same time my husband and I are faced with total care and responsibility for his Dad with dementia. I will tell you that the joys are just as high as the lows are low, but in the quiet we are all learning more about what really matters and that you can find gratitude in adverse situations.

Remember to pray for your sisters in Christ as we are all facing difficulties and challenges in one form or another and reach out to those who might seem to have disappeared from your radar for a while. I am so grateful for my CDA sisters. Time spent together with you is the most beautiful blessing and I am eternally grateful that we're all so blessed to have one another to walk this down road of Faith together. May these fall and winter holy days be filled with joy in Our Blessed Lord.

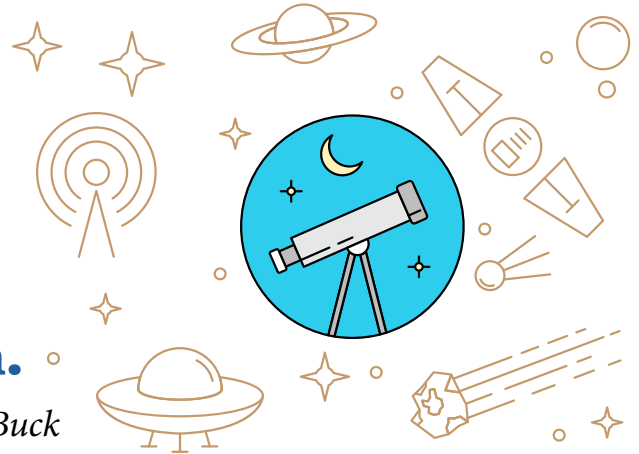


National JCDA Day

National JCDA Day is held on the third Sunday in February. CDA Courts are encouraged to join their “little sisters” in celebrating National JCDA Day on Sunday, February 16, 2020. Show your support for your junior court by planning some memorable activities with them! A JCDA Proclamation can be found on the National CDA website at catholicdaughters.org under “Frequent Downloads”

The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore they attempt the impossible, and achieve it, generation after generation.

–Pearl S. Buck



Linear Space Icons by Veteazy

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UPDATE ON CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BILLS

Maureen Laubacher, Legislation Chair



Illustration by Rawpixel from Vecteezy

I am presenting a synopsis of what happened to some of the bills that were sent to Governor Newsom for signature. This information was extracted from the California Catholic Conference website.

Signed into law:

- **SB 24** allows taxpayer funds to be used to provide chemical abortions on public college campuses – very disappointing.
- **AB 922** allows women to sell their eggs for research purposes – also disappointing.
- **AB 988** enables experienced out-of-state special education teachers to clear their credential more easily.
- **AB 1548** created the California Nonprofit Security Grant Program to improve physical security for nonprofit places of learning and worship that are at high risk
- **AB 2** offers a second year of tuition-free community college for first time, full-time students at campuses participating in the state's College Promise program
- **AB 1354** ensures consistent educational opportunities for youth within the juvenile justice system
- **AB 1628** allows the populations and communities disproportionately impacted by pollution have equitable access to environmental and land-use decision-making
- **AB 209** fosters good stewardship among underserved youth by increasing their ability to engage in outdoor education experiences at state parks and other public lands.

- **SB 210** creates “smog check” requirements for heavy-duty non-gasoline trucks by modernizing emissions control enforcement

Vetoed by the Governor

- **AB 624** would have required that each California student identification card have the name of a “sexual or reproductive health hotline” printed on them. This is good.
- **AB 842** would have greatly increased affordable access to healthy meals for low-income children in preschool and childcare.
- **SB 42** The Getting Home Safe Act would have prevented jails from releasing prisoners during late night hours.

There are two bills which have been moved to two-year bill that I will be monitoring throughout the year:

- **SB 360** threatens priests with jail-time if they aren't willing to break the seal of confession
- **SB 298** is a plan to reduce childhood poverty.

This legislative session is over, but the California Catholic Conference continues to monitor issues that are important to us as Catholics. Please be sure to visit their website at <https://www.cacatholic.org>



LOCAL COURT UPDATES

News and Events from Around the State



Ct. St. Malachy's Members price items for sale, owl crafts and succulent bowls.

Annual Fall Bazaar

The members of **Court St. Malachy #2360, Tehachapi**, work year-round to make items for their annual Fall Bazaar. This year's event was held November 8 and 9. The bazaar featured the handmade items for sale, raffle prizes and a cookie walk. Congratulations on a successful event!



L-R: Ct. Santa Sophia #2520 Members - Regent, Debbie Crutchfield, Carol Williams, Pam Kay, Karen Kirkman, Diana Garra, Claire Lake, Marie Mixon.

Art Appreciation and Reflection

November 10 — Members of **Court Santa Sophia #2520, Spring Valley** attended the art exhibit: Christ: Life, Death, and Resurrection, featuring works from the Italian Renaissance which was held at the Univer-

sity of San Diego. Following the moving exhibit, they took the opportunity to walk through Founders Chapel and the Immaculata Church.



Members of Ct. Compton with the priest and deacon at the Prayer Breakfast held at Our Lady of Angels Cathedral

2019 Prayer Breakfast

September 17 — Members of **Court Compton #942, Compton**, and several State Board members attended the 2019 Prayer Breakfast hosted by Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral. A wonderful time was had by all! The guest speaker was Mike Scioscia, former LA Dodger catcher and current manager of the Los Angeles Angels. He spoke poignantly on how his deep Catholic Faith guided him through life and in his sporting career, both as a player and as a manager.

We want to hear from you!

Most of the court updates have been extracted from newsletters. Even if your court doesn't have a newsletter, we want to hear from you! Send in your articles via email to Melissa Hiatt, GST Editor at melissahiatt@gmail.com. Please include your article in the email body and attach a photo (if possible). Be sure to include the caption for the photo in the email body.