



**Catholic Daughters
of the Americas®**

Montana

December 2022



**Message from Montana
State Regent Patty Kepp**

A beautiful December to all of you! Hoping you had a blessed Thanksgiving and are now beginning your preparations for the Advent and Christmas Season! This time of year I know we are all very busy, including myself, but we need to take time and contemplate what's ahead for the coming year. The 38th Biennial State Convention is not far off—May 5-6, 2023 in Glendive. The ladies of Court St. Katherine have been busy preparing for the convention, so let's show our appreciation by attending the state convention.

Ladies, please consider offering your time and talent and run for a state officer position. Your talents are needed and "yes" you do have the talent and whether you believe it or not, you do have the time! What you receive in return is very much worth your time spent. Not only do you benefit with that feeling of making a difference, your local court, along with the Montana State court and the National Catholic Daughters of the Americas benefit from you. And your local parish benefits from this as well. You say—how do all these benefit if I am a state officer? 1. you're serving the Lord, 2. Charity towards others with your time and talent, 3. Unity between you and others and the friendships you make, 4. familiarity with CDA and communicating with your parish, 5. family benefits as they witness your commitment. And there are many more reasons why "YOU" should run for one of the state officer positions. If you have questions, please call me or another state officer.

Thank you to all those who were able to attend one of the "Fall Spiritual Reflection/Workshops" sponsored by your Montana State Board and hosted by Court Our Lady of Victory, Wibaux and Court St. Cecelia, Billings. Both retreats were very well attended and we had great speakers, great food and great conversation, as well as great silent auction items. Thank you all who participated in these two events.

Take care everyone, stay safe and see you May 5-6, 2023 in Glendive for the 38th Biennial State Convention.

In Unity and Charity
Patty Kepp, MT State Regent



Member: Ct. Our Lady of Fatima, #1979—Hardin



**Message from Barb Ward
National Representative/Nat'l Director**

Hello my fellow Montana CDA Sisters! Let me give you a brief background on myself. I am Barb Ward, your new National Director for the 2022-2024 term. I was so happy that Emily appointed me as your new Director! I went to your National Convention in Billings and had a wonderful time—maybe some of you went to the National Convention when it was in Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska is my home state. I grew up around the Broken Bow, Nebraska area and lived there until a year ago. Broken Bow is a small town of 3500 people with three stop lights. It is in the middle of Nebraska, in corn and cow country, surrounded by farms and at the beginning of the Sandhills. The Sandhills are grass covered sand dunes and only good for pasture grazing of cattle. So, we have a mixture of crops and ranching. I joined Our Lady of the Plains #2098 of Broken Bow in 1977 and have been a Catholic Daughter since. I have been through all the local offices, and like so many of you, more than once! I was regent three different times and enjoyed it all three times. I moved on to the state level in 2009. Buffalo, New York was my first national convention experience. I was a state officer for twelve years, holding all offices but State Secretary. I was State Regent for only one two-year term so that I could devote all my time at the National level. I was voted in as a National Director in 2020. This is my second two-year term as a National Director. I now also supervise the states of Idaho and North Dakota. I am on the Bylaws committee and am the National Newsletter Chairman for this two-year term. I have three grown sons, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren ranging in age from six to nine. After 25 years of being single, I married Mike Ward in November of 2021. He has been a wonderful supporter of me with my "CDA" endeavors and recently helped me start a new court here at our home parish in Longmont, Colorado. I have given him the title of "husband of the year"! That is a little background of myself. The one thing we all need to work on is membership. Each and every one of you only need to bring in ONE new member. Please remember this—only one! I also want to remind everyone as we approach the frantic part of the year, to remember what the holidays are really about. Be thankful as you gather with your families and pray for one another. Pray for your courts that we may continue God's good works. You are all a blessing to me, and I am thankful for that! Until next time, peace and may God's goodness and glory be present in your lives!

Barb Ward, National Director

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**National Representative/
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Message from Jo Ann Harper Montana 1st Vice State Regent



Greetings ladies!

It was so good to visit the Wibaux and Billings areas providing a day of Spirituality, reflection time, fun and CDA updates to our membership. The State Board appreciates you taking time to attend these sessions, as we take time to work and prepare presentations we feel can benefit all of you and us. You just cannot replace face time with virtual time, we need our social times.

My prayer is for all of us to have special family time over the holidays. Family? That means our CDA sisters, our neighbors, our other social group friends, our co-workers. 'Family' really covers a lot of territory! I personally have no blood family nearby so I depend on my 'extended' family to get me thru each day. This is also a time of year where many of us feel overwhelmed with..... life in general. Tasks and events start piling up and you feel like you are losing ground instead of moving forward, I found this prayer inserted below that may fit into your life situations the way it does mine right now. The Good Lord knows I could use a little faith strengthening right now.

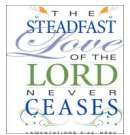
Love you ladies! Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy 2023.

Jo Ann Harper, 1st Vice State Regent

Member: Ct. St. Mary #645—Livingston



Message from Gale Kreitzberg Montana 2nd Vice State Regent



It is hard to believe we are almost to the end of 2022. Wasn't it just yesterday that the year began!! As much as things continue to change or pass by, one thing never changes our Faith, Hope and Love of the Lord. He is always there for us no matter what we do or don't do. Faith is what keeps us going when all is falling around us. We continue to grow in our Faith and know that God is truly the one we can have Faith in and He does not disappoint. Faith can move mountains, it can give us sight, and it can heal our hearts, minds and bodies. Pray for greater Faith this Advent season that the Lord will shine His light upon us and renew us and our troubled world. Prayer is our greatest defense against evil and our Faith will keep us safe from harm.

Gale Kreitzberg, 2nd Vice State Regent

Member: Ct. St. Cecelia #1151—Billings



Message from State Chaplain Father Greg Staudinger

As we gather together during these blustery days of fall. We are done with Halloween and with the changing of time and the color of the leaves in the trees. We bow our heads to be thankful for what the good Lord has given us. Thanksgiving is not to far off. That we give thanks for all we have. With the changing of weather comes more snow and the bright lights of Christmas and its blessings. May this be a time of reflection for each one of us.

May we all enjoy the changing of the the seasons.

Take care!

Fr Greg Staudinger, State Chaplain

Just a few reminders!

State Newsletter: If the editor has an updated email address for members, they should receive an emailed copy of the Montana State Newsletter. Also, all Court Regents and Recording Secretaries will receive a hard copy. If the state board does not have an email address for a court officer a hard copy will be mailed. Please share the information with members who have not received the state newsletter.

Dues: Remember to keep your court rosters up-to-date. Send in forms for additions, deletions, address changes—asap, as well as your new members. (Ask for an updated court roster from National: cdaroster@aol.com)

Remember each court officer should have a copy of the current Bylaws—Amended July 2022. All members may receive a copy. You can order through the store on the national website.





PRAYER FOR HARD TIMES "STRONG FAITH IN HARD TIMES"

Lord Jesus,
the Gospels teach us that faith has
infinite power. Even the faith of a
mustard seed can move mountains
and bring the dead back to life. In
hard times we see the brokenness
of the world. Our faith is often
tested and it can become difficult
to believe. Lord, I ask that You
strengthen my faith. Purge all
doubt from my heart, and open my
eyes of faith to find my way out of
these dark times.
Amen.





ConnectUs



Message from Pam Boner, State Treasurer

Greetings my fellow Catholic Daughters. Welcome to Montana's Winter Wonderland.



I would like to thank everyone that made our Spiritual Retreats such a success. Our speakers were awesome. And of course the food and fellowship were great too. I always leave feeling I am at my best, that Christ is with me. Much like I feel after attending Mass.

And now we are in another one of God's beautiful seasons. A season of blessings and gratitude. A warm home, food on the table, good health, a loving family, friends that are like our family, plowed roads, no ice on the sidewalks, and the list goes on and on.

Thanksgiving, A time of thanks for our country and the blessings we have with freedom.

Christmas, A time of thanks for the promises of Christ.

I look forward to the holiday season and hope that you too have peace and joy.

Yours in Christ,
Pam Boner, State Treasurer

Dual Member: Ct. St. Katherine #239-Glendive
and Ct. St. Cecelia #1151-Billings



Message from Peg Smith, State Secretary

The State Newsletter is typically timed with a change! It happens to



be a change of season, a change in weather, a liturgical change or time for a behavioral change. And here we are again! So I turn within and think about what change might I embrace during Advent and my favorite season, Christmas. I heard a question posed the other day that gave me pause. It was "do you remember the gifts you received last year?" Oh, what were they? What really meant more to me than a something that I must dust or find room for? When I ponder the answer to that question, I hear an answer. My angel speaks to me and says, "it's the small things that matter, it's a smile, it's sharing a God Moment, or it's a friendly gesture given or received." My angel might have some work to do on me, but I am open to those graces. I can still appreciate some Christmas busyness but I want to slow down so I can hear the voice of my angel.

God bless you and may you have a blessed Advent season.
Peg Smith, State Secretary

Member: Ct. St. Cecelia #1151—Billings



Catholic Daughters of the Americas websites

National: www.catholicdaughters.org

Montana State: www.cdaofmontana.org

The state website is now live. Please submit your information, pictures and ideas to Jo Ann Harper, State Website Editor.

Court St. Mary #645— Livingston has glassware for purchase, which was ordered for the 2021 State CDA Convention. Stemmed wine glass, Stemless wine glass, Mason jar glass. \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Contact Jo Ann Harper at 1-406-223-9046



State Board Tentative Calendar—2023

- Jan 4, 2023: State Board Zoom meeting
- Jan 14, 2023: State Board meeting and Zoom meeting with 2023 Convention Committee
- March 2023: State Board meeting—TBD
- May 5—6, 2023: 38th Biennial MT State Convention

DEADLINES—DATES

Feb 1, 2023:

Applications to run for a state officer position must be postmarked prior to February 1, 2023 and mailed to the 2023 Nominating Committee Chairman Joannie Warnke, 325 S Main St., Apt 302, Livingston, MT 59047

ALL STATE OFFICER POSITIONS ARE OPEN!

PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER RUNNING FOR A POSITION ON THE MONTANA STATE BOARD!

Feb 25, 2023:

Delegates/Alternates form due to State Regent

Resolutions/ByLaw proposals due to State Regent

Mar 1, 2023: Education contest first place entries, Newsletter contest entries and Circle of Love reporting forms due to state chairmen

Mar 25, 2023:

List of deceased members for Memorial Service due to State Regent

April 30, 2023: Semi-Annual Financial Review completed (October 1, 2022—March 31, 2023)

38th Biennial State Convention Registration due date and information to follow in Final Call to Convention to be mailed in February 2023.

National News:

National Chaplain, The Most Rev. Shenan Boquet

My dear sisters in Christ, In God's wondrous design, we can see and experience creation moving through seasons, understanding that "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens" (Ref., Ecclesiastes 3:1-4). In other words, all human things have their season, and the things we go through in life are not without purpose. Although we cannot see it, everything has a cause, a reason for being, which only God knows. We also understand that situations do not last forever, and the seasons are permitted by a loving God, in His divine providence, to serve a great purpose: our flourishing.

Though life does not always make sense, and we may feel insignificant at times, we find comfort and hope in God, who is the Author of our time and the seasons of our lives, inviting us to penetrate these mysteries. With an unshakeable faith, we march forward welcoming the new seasons, changes, and circumstances while learning to depend on God, these seasons, and expecting things because of them – trusting that God makes things beautiful in due season and causes our lives to be abundant in meaning...

As we welcome our new National Board, as well as State and Regional Court leaders, a new season is dawning – a time of change, growth, and renewal. For these leaders, it is a time of integrating natural and spiritual qualities to be utilized for serving and assisting God's people – the good of the Order – to accomplish His purposes (Ref., Romans 8:28, Matthew 20:20-28). They recognize that these natural qualities – i.e., skills, talents, etc. – are not self-created, but God-given and only reach their highest effectiveness when, with hearts filled with gratitude and humility, they are employed in the service of God and for His glory (Ref., 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-12).

But the task of serving God and sharing one's natural qualities are not only for the Order's leaders, but it also belongs to each member, who has personally been called by name, and through the Holy Spirit are called to live out CDA's mission intentionally, giving witness to its motto, and fulfilling its two-fold purpose of "spirituality and service" – the heart and soul foundation of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

As this new season begins, let us make the Psalmist's prayer our very own: "May the favor of the Lord our God be ours. Prosper the work of our hands! Prosper the work of our hands!" (Psalm 90:17)

Father Shenan J. Bouquet, National Chaplain

(from the September 2022 National Quarterly—page 3
and can be viewed at www.catholicdaughters.org)

REMINDER

DUES: At National Convention dues were raised to \$18.00 per year.

The first semi-annual payment of \$9.00 is due to the National Office by November 2022.

Circle of Love

By definition, a circle is a curved line with every point equal distance from the point to the center and bound together by a common interest. The seven point program of the "Circle of Love" is bound together by the common interest - love.

* Education * Youth/JCDA * Family
* Spiritual Enhancement * Leadership
* Quality of Life * Legislation

National Charity:

Covenant House was founded 38 years ago with the mission to help homeless kids. Today, Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and essential services to homeless, throwaway, and runaway kids.

National Project:

SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious) Was founded in 1986 with \$25,000 seed money received from Catholic Daughters. Augmenting the efforts of the institutional Church, SOAR! is a non-profit organization of persons who are committed to assuring financially stable and personally secure futures for elderly and frail members of Catholic religious congregations.

Save Down syndrome children first!

When abortion rights expand, children diagnosed with Down syndrome are often the most endangered. The Jerome Lejeune Foundation USA, an advocate for the lives of unborn children with Down syndrome, reports approximately 67 percent of American children diagnosed with Down syndrome are killed in the womb each year. By working in state legislatures and in the courts, many states have enacted legal protections for those with a prenatal Down syndrome diagnosis. Defending and humanizing these special children can help to humanize all pre-born children. See Lejeunefoundation.org for more information.

(This article is printed in its entirety from the September 2022 National Quarterly, page 9—"Operation Morning Star" Volume XII, No 1, September 2022 and can be viewed at www.catholicdaughters.org)

*The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord
make His face shine upon you, And be
gracious to you; The Lord lift up His
countenance upon you, And give you peace.*

Montana State Projects: Ronald McDonald House

The mission of RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities) is to create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and wellbeing of children. Guiding us in our mission are our core values:

- Lead with compassion
- Focus on the critical needs of children
- Celebrate the diversity of our people and our programs
- Value our heritage
- Operate with accountability and transparency

Here is how our donations help RMH families:

\$25 donation buys a weeks worth of on the go lunches & snacks; \$50 donation buys 2 night's lodging for a family of 4 guests; \$75 donation helps fill our pantry with comfort food for our families; \$125 donation covers the "true cost" for 1 night's stay including common area space & laundry facilities.

In 2019, the Montana Catholic Daughters of the Americas donated \$596.67 for the period from April, 2017 to March, 2019. In 2021, we donated \$195.00 from April, 2019 to March 2021. These donations were all possible by each local court supporting the Ronald McDonald House as one of the three State Charities/Projects. Thank you everyone for your generosity!



What: **38th Biennial Montana State Convention**

When: **May 5-6, 2023**

Where: **Glendive, MT**

*Please plan to attend!
The "First Call to Convention"
was mailed November 14th.*

***Please consider running for a
State Officer position!
Montana CDA needs you!***

*See page three for details.
If you have any questions,
please contact a state officer.*

*Happy
New Year*



Local Courts! Remember to submit articles and photos to the Share Magazine, the Harvest and the Montana State Website. **CDA needs publicity!!**

State Website: email or snail mail to Jo Ann Harper (see page one for address information)

Share Magazine: Tompanas7@gmail.com with subject line: Story for SHARE and check national website www.catholicdaughters.org for additional information

The Harvest: send to editor@TheHarvestNews.org and check the website TheHarvestNews.org/submissions for additional information.



The Montana State Board is selling seat cushions as a fund-raiser for state board expenses. If you would like to purchase one or two or more, please contact any state officer. They are \$15 each.

**Advent Wreath**

1st CANDLE—(purple) **THE PROPHECY CANDLE or CANDLE OF HOPE**—We can have hope because God is faithful and will keep the promises made to us. Our hope comes from God. (Romans 15:12-13)

2nd CANDLE—(purple) **THE BETHLEHEM CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF PREPARATION**—God kept his promise of a Savior who would be born in Bethlehem. Preparation means to "get ready". Help us to be ready to welcome YOU, O GOD! (Luke 3:4-6)

3rd CANDLE—(pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY**—The angels sang a message of JOY! (Luke 2:7-15)

4th CANDLE—(purple) **THE ANGEL CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF LOVE**—The angels announced the good news of a Savior. God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! (John 3:16-17)

5th CANDLE—(white) **"CHRIST CANDLE"** - The white candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to wash away our sins! His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! (John 1:29)

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas
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.

NATIONAL PROJECTS AND CHARITIES

Catholic Daughters of the Americas supports five National Projects.

Every court is asked to contribute \$20 a year to each of these projects so they can continue their good works.

The five projects are:

- Habitat for Humanity
- Holy Cross Family Ministries
- Laboure Society
- SOAR! (Support Our Aging Religious)
- National Center on Sexual Exploitation
(formerly Morality in Media)

Catholic Daughters also support ten National Charities. Courts are asked to choose who they wish to make contributions to each year. They are:

- The North American College
- Apostleship of the Sea
- Mother Theresa
- Disaster Relief Fund
- Catholic Relief Services
- Covenant House
- Tutwiler Clinic
- Human Life International
- Catholic Extension
- Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Collectively, all contributions equal huge checks to these organizations at National Conventions.



2021—2023 MONTANA STATE OFFICERS CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS



REGENT

Patty Kepp

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406-665-5257

* contact Patty for any CDA questions or issues / schedule an officer visit to your court

* Circle of Love Chairman: Education / Leadership / Public Relations

FIRST VICE REGENT

Jo Ann Harper

430 N C Street, #12 Livingston, MT 59047

406-223-9046

* contact Jo Ann for any CDA questions or issues if you cannot reach Patty

* Circle of Love Chairman: Family / National Projects & Charities / Leadership / Public Relations

SECOND VICE REGENT

Gale Kreitzberg

2454 Southridge Dr Billings, MT 59102

406-860-2669

* contact Gale if Patty or Jo Ann are not available

* Circle of Love Chairman: Quality of Life / Leadership / Public Relations

SECRETARY

Peg Smith

8725 Cutthroat Dr Billings, MT 59106

406-672-3006

* send the secretary your dues and payments of any kind / membership forms

* Circle of Love Chairman: Leadership/Public Relations

TREASURER

Pam Boner

2133 Lake Hills Dr Billings, MT 59105

406-939-1936

* contact Pam if you want to verify you paid your dues

* Circle of Love Chairman: Local Newsletter / Youth & JCDA / Leadership / Public Relations

Circle of Love Legislative Chairman: Monica Gallegos-Lauepple 406-265-6802

Circle of Love Spiritual Enhancement Chairman: Kelly M Ihde 406-489-1059

**contact ANY state officer to report court news for the State Newsletter or the State Website*