



Message from Patty Kepp Montana State Regent

I'm hoping everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving, beautiful fall and are now beginning your preparations for Advent and the Christmas season.

First though, I would like to share what I am thankful for this past year: my daughter and her family and my parents live close, and are able to travel, we spend most holidays together; my husband Kenny was Baptized, Confirmed and made his First Holy Communion into the Catholic Church during Holy Week - prayers are answered! We celebrated our "50th" wedding anniversary a couple weeks ago; you also saw fit to elect me for another term as your State Regent. Yes, I have much to be thankful for along with all of you—my Catholic Daughter sisters.

The New Year promises to be busy with the election of new court officers, Circle of Love reports, Education and Newsletter contests, the 60th Biennial National Convention in New Orleans and visits by your state board. Which leads to the survey questions we mailed to all members. We studied all of them carefully and are thankful for the input. We met by "zoom" session with court officers who were able to attend on November 7th & 9th. Your input is most beneficial. Thank you for sharing your time.

Each court is unique and you know best what is needed in your court, so we have requested courts to choose one of the following: 1. The state officers to attend a local court meeting with discussion, goals, questions from members; 2. Present a mini workshop at your location; 3. Attend weekend Mass/Masses to educate members and offer assistance with recruiting members. Please let me know your choice by December 7th. As of this publication we have heard from five courts.

When the state board meets in January, we will devise a plan that accommodates as many schedules as possible.

Thank you all and look forward to seeing everyone in "2024".

God bless!

In Unity and Charity
Patty Kepp
Montana State Regent



From Barb Ward National Director, Montana

Hello to all my Montana Catholic Daughters! Fall has wound down and winter is upon us. Radio stations are now playing

Christmas music and by this time next week Thanksgiving 2023 will be just a memory. My favorite Christmas carol is "Oh Holy Night!". What is yours? Every year I bet all of us have sung one song in particular which seemed meaningless, until I came across this article in a Catholic publication. I am about to refresh your memory on the true meaning of this song. I am talking about "The Twelve Days of Christmas". This song was written many centuries ago when Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to openly practice their faith. The "True Love" in each verse is really Jesus Christ and the "me" in "gave to me" is any baptized Catholic.

The partridge in a pear tree is Christ himself. They used a partridge because that species of bird is willing to sacrifice its life to protect its young by faking an injury to draw predators away. Christ most certainly sacrificed His life for us.

Moving on to the other verses, the two turtle doves stand for the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens represented faith, hope and love. The four calling birds are the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The five golden rings symbolize the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying is the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. The eight maids a-milking signify the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. The ten lords a-leaping represent the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping stand for the eleven "faithful" apostles. The twelve drummers drumming symbolize the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed (did you just pray the Apostles Creed?).

New meanings give us a new perspective on an old familiar song. Is the old familiar song in your life titled "you need to bring in a new Catholic Daughter member? We've needed to do this for years, but numbers indicate to us that we aren't doing very well. Maybe we need to take on a new perspective. Think about turning the tables on your talking points or approach- (please see National Director...page 2)

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**Message from State Chaplain
Father Greg Staudinger**

As the fall weather gives way to the blowing leaves and the wind and snow of the change of temperature, so our liturgical year changes from green to purple or light blue of Advent. We now enter into time that is sacred and is for what we are called. It is a chance for us to listen to what God is calling us to. We are called to change our lives as we look at God's gift of a child, His son Jesus, He gave to us. A child that changed the face of history and mankind. During the four weeks of Advent we have chance to what the scriptures tell us and reflect on what is truly, Peace on Earth and Good will to All. May his word as rich as it is, dwell within your heart, mind and soul this Advent Season.

Fr Greg Staudinger, Montana State Chaplain



National Director for Montana

(from page 1)

ing people differently. A perspective new member usually wants to know what we do, and we tell them the best we can. But maybe we need to ask them what they are missing in their life and that Catholic Daughters may be able to fill that void. Ask them what they are looking for. Are they ready for change, could Catholic Daughters be that change? Are they looking for true friendship and wanting someone to talk to about life or a prayer partner? Have they reached a point in their lives where they need a more in-person social life? Have their children left home, and they are feeling that empty nest syndrome? Look at your approach from a different perspective.

Here are twelve ways (days) that you may bring in a new CDA sister.

- #1) Take on a new perspective.
- #2) Turn the tables on your talking points.
- #3) Approach people differently.
- #4) Tell them what we do.
- #5) Ask them what they are missing in their life.
- #6) What are they looking for?
- #7) Are they ready for change?
- #8) Are they looking for true friendship.
- #9) Are they wanting someone to talk to?
- #10) Are they looking for someone to pray for or pray with?
- #11) Do they need a more in-person social life?
- #12) Have their children left home?

EVERY CHRISTMAS PACKAGE THAT WE OPEN IS A SURPRISE.
WHAT IS YOUR WAY OF BRINGING IN A NEW CDA SISTER?

Merry Christmas and many blessings to you all.

*Barb Ward
National Director*

REMINDERS:

March 1, 2024 deadline:

- Circle of Love reporting forms to State Chairman
- Education Contest entries due to State Chairman
- Newsletter entries due to State Chairman

Local Court Nominations & Elections of Officers: The Nominating Committee is elected at the regular business meeting in March 2024. The Chairman shall report the Slate of Officers at the April 2024 meeting. The Court Regent sends written or electronic mail to the court's membership at least ten days prior to the May 2024 election to be held at the regular business meeting in May. (please see By-laws page 39-40).

Delegate/Alternate forms for the **60th Biennial National Convention**. Court Regents, please watch for the form in the mail. When received please elect at your court meeting the number of delegates and alternate delegates you MAY be sending to the national convention. Complete the form even though you may not have representation from your court and mail to the appropriate parties by the stated deadline.

The Montana State Assessments

The following is the state dues distribution billed semi-annually at \$6.00 per member.

Priest Burse: \$0.75

(to assist with the daily/basic expenses for the Seminarians)

State Chaplain Expenses: \$0.75

(travel, registration fees, etc.)

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine at Emigrant: \$1.00

(maintenance of the grounds)

State Officer Expenses: \$3.50

(operating supplies, travel, etc.)

Catholic Daughters of the Americas websites

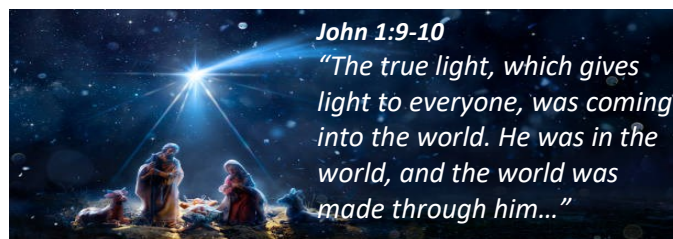
National: www.catholicdaughters.org

Montana State: www.cdaofmontana.org

Please submit your information, pictures and ideas to Jo Ann Harper, State Website Editor.

***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.



MONTANA LOCAL COURT NEWS:

Court St Mary #645 Livingston "Make a Difference Day"

Court St. Mary #645 in Livingston met at Caslen's Assisted Living to visit their members and present a single rose to each one. Members also paid visits to two semi-homebound ladies and gifted them with roses as well.

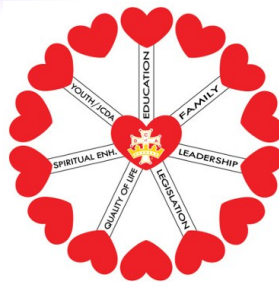
In the picture to the right, Muggsy, residing at Caslen's reached 50 years as a Catholic Daughter, so she was 'pinned' and congratulated during the visit.



"Montana's National Education Contest Winners"



First place winners in Computer Art and Music for the 2023 National Education Contest were Brynn Sogaard and Alex Johnson of Billings. Brynn and Alex were invited to lunch along with their parents by Court St. Cecelia #1151 and were presented with their certificate awards and checks from the National Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Brynn placed first in Computer Art Division III and Alex placed first in Music Division III. Court St Cecelia Regent Peg Smith and Education Contest Chairman Carol Schaff presented the awards.



Court Mother Cabrini #1766 Sidney "Living Rosary"



Court Mother Cabrini #1766 in Sidney gathered together on October 14, 2023 and prayed the Living Rosary on the front steps of St Matthews' Catholic Church.

National JCDA Scholarship Recipient



Katelyn Fuchs of Hardin was awarded the National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Scholarship for 2023. This award on behalf of the National Catholic Daughters of the Americas was presented to Katie by Patty Kepp, Montana State Regent. Katie is past President of JCDA Court St Bernadette #1979 and a charter member of the Hardin junior court. The JCDA court is sponsored by Court Our Lady of Fatima #1979. Reverend Callistus Igwenagu, Priest for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hardin is also Chaplain for both courts.

Court St Cecelia #1151 Billings "Catholic Daughter Sunday"



Court St. Cecelia #1151 in Billings gathered for Mass on Catholic Daughter Sunday at St Pius X Catholic Church. The colorful purple sweaters put a smile on Father Martin's face. Members followed up by enjoying brunch together at the Western Emporium. It was a delightful occasion. In October, Court St Cecelia honored the month of the Rosary and prayed it together, followed with a reflection by Father Greg.

NATIONAL NEWS:

National Dues billing: \$18.00 per member per year (billed semi-annually @ \$9.00 per member).

The Catholic Daughters is a membership organization and operating expenses are primarily paid through member dues. Donations can help. There are several ways to donate by visiting catholicdaughters.org

March for Life
January 19, 2024
Washington, DC



JCDA Day
February 18, 2024



2024 60th Biennial National Convention
August 14-18, 2024 New Orleans, Louisiana

**Operation Morningstar,**

Volume XII, No. 6 December 2023

Daughters in National March for Life January 19

The National Board of Catholic Daughters and Catholic Daughters' members from many states will gather to walk in the National March for Life January 19, in Washington, D.C. The two days prior there is a March for Life Expo where various pro-life organizations from around the country explain their goals and disseminate information to help people in the pro-life cause. The headquarters for the March is at the Westin DC Downtown Hotel, formerly the Renaissance DC. The pre-rally concert for the March begins at 11 a.m. on Friday, January 19, on the National Mall. The March for Life Rally is from noon to 1 p.m., and the March itself begins at 1 p.m. A new, longer route will be used this year to walk past the office buildings of US Representatives. The March concludes in front of the US Supreme Court. The Board of Catholic Daughters participates in a Mass at the Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception the day before the March. The March for Life brings tens of thousands of people together in the largest annual human rights demonstration in the world. According to the website, there are still more than 900,000 abortions annually. The website says, "The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable." The Hyde Amendment, which has saved more than 2 million lives, is the most important pro-life policy in our nation's history, and it must be continually defended. The website says, "We envision a world where every life is celebrated, valued, and protected."

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Bylaws

Susan Moné, National Regent Elect

Although our National Convention 2024 in New Orleans seems far away, it will be here before we know it. Now is the time to be planning for the pre-convention requirements and deadlines to be met in preparation for the Convention.

The Bylaws for our organization is one of those pre-convention considerations. Bylaws are the foundation for our organization to keep all members on track and to keep consistency within the entire membership. Bylaws are the written rules for the conduct of business in our organization. Bylaws are the framework for us to have a firm, strong organization. It is every member's opportunity to have a voice in changes or additions for the good of our organizations.

Who can submit a proposed bylaw change? Bylaws may be voted on and submitted by:

1) Campus Court, 2) Local Court, 3) State Board, 4) State Court, 5) National Board, and 6) National Bylaw committee. Bylaws for proposed changes can be found in our 2022 bylaw book on page 49, Article XXI.

The National Committee on Bylaws shall receive and review all proposed changes to the Bylaws. The Bylaws may be amended at any Biennial National Convention by a two-third (2/3) vote of the delegates present, provided written notice has been submitted to the Local and State Courts four months prior to the Convention. Note, it is possible that not all bylaws submitted will be brought to the floor by the Bylaw Committee at the Convention.

There is an exception for an emergency amendment to be proposed at a Biennial Convention without the 4-month prior notice if it has been approved by the National Bylaw Committee by three-fourth (3/4) vote of the full membership of the committee. The Bylaws may be amended by such an amendment only if approved at any Biennial National Convention by three-fourth (3/4) of the National Court present.

Approved amendments must be signed by the State Regent and State Secretary or by the Local Regent and Recording Secretary. Local courts need to send a copy of the amendments proposed with the rationale to the State Regent. An example of how to write a Bylaw can be found in the Tools of the Trade, Section 4, page 62, Attachment 23.

All proposed Bylaw Amendments must be postmarked by January 15, 2024. Five (5) copies of each amendment proposal are to be sent to the Bylaws Chair with one amendment per page. Send to: Susan Moné, 2550 S. Ellsworth Road #535, Mesa, AZ 85209

Merry Christmas
 AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Membership

The parable of the mustard seed is a reminder that even a small amount of faith can be powerful. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to the mountain, ‘move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

During Advent, we are preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is the embodiment of God’s Power and Love. He came to the earth to save us from our sins and to give us eternal life.

When we have faith as small as a mustard seed, we are trusting that God loves us and wants what is best for us. During Advent, we can reflect on the parable of the mustard seed and ask ourselves:

Do I have faith as small as a mustard seed?

Do I believe that God is powerful enough to do anything?

Do I trust that God loves me and want what is best for me?

If we can answer yes to these questions, then we can hope for the future. We can know that God is with us and that He will help us through any challenges we face.

Here are some ways that we can cultivate faith as small as a mustard seed during Advent:

- **SPEND TIME IN PRAYER.** This will help us to deepen our relationship with God and to trust in His love and power. Add new prayers to your daily prayers. Set up a prayer chair or special spot for the morning prayer. My personal goal is to say four rosaries each day of each of the mysteries.
- **READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is full of stories about God’s truthfulness and love. Reading the Bible can help us to grow in our faith. Join a Bible study. Start a Bible study. Invite other women to join you. Journey with the gospels in the birth of Jesus.
- **SERVE OTHERS.** When we serve others, we are following the example of Jesus Christ. Serving others can help us to grow in our love for God and others. Provide families with Advent wreaths, Advent prayer booklets, or Advent calendars. Bake for parish members that are homebound. Assist and/or donate to food pantries—cookies, cakes, bread mixes, and don’t forget the icing and sprinkles!
- **BE GRATEFUL FOR THE BLESSINGS IN OUR LIVES.** When we are grateful, we are reminded of God’s goodness and love. Gratitude can help us grow in our faith. Send handwritten cards and notes to family, friends, parish staff, school staff, hospital staff, and emergency workers. It’s a great time to write a personal note to your parents, spouse, children, grandchildren, and siblings. Following the death of my parents and inheriting their address book, I sent a Christmas card to everyone in that book and included a memory I had about a Christmas with my parents or a memory about them with my parents. It was very healing for me. The receivers appreciated the moment.

By cultivating Faith as Small as a Mustard Seed during Advent, we can prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We can also be filled with the hope and anticipation for the future. This faith will enable the Catholic Daughters Organization to grow and be more widely known to Catholic women by our example of faith.

Susan Hicks

National Director, Membership



NATIONAL PROJECTS AND CHARITIES

Catholic Daughters of the Americas support 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! (Save Our Aging Religious)
- National Center on Sexual Exploitation
(formerly Morality in Media)

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

- Apostleship of the Sea
- Catholic Extension
- Catholic Relief Services
- Disaster Relief
- Human Life International
- Missionaries of Charity
- National Shrine of Immaculate Conception
- Pontifical North American College
- Tutwiler Clinic

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



2023—2025 MONTANA STATE OFFICERS CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS



REGENT

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

* Circle of Love Chairman: Education / Court Development / Leadership / Membership / Public Relations

FIRST VICE REGENT

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

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

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* Circle of Love Chairman: Local Newsletter / Court Development / Leadership / Membership / Public Relations

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Darcie Huppert

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

* Circle of Love Chairman: Youth & JCDA / Court Development / Leadership / Membership / Public Relations

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

Circle of Love Legislation Chairman: Monica Lauepple 406-945-0822

Circle of Love Spiritual Enhancement Chairman and Montana History Book: Kelly M Ihde 406-489-1059

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