



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

Montana

March 2022



Message from MT State Regent Patty Kepp

Hello everyone and Happy Spring! Springtime is one of my favorite times of the year. Not only is springtime refreshing it is the Lenten and Easter Season.

Pope Francis said: "During this Lent, let us all ask the Lord—Make our hearts like yours".

This Lenten season (and all year thru) I'm trying my best to do just that by praying, fasting and serving. Although I have to admit the fasting has not been going so well as those sweets are just calling my name!



I know I promised to visit your courts this CDA season, but with the weather and many appointments it does not appear to be going as planned. I apologize! And I do promise—if I don't visit your court this spring, I WILL VISIT THIS FALL!

I am sure all of you are busy making plans and participating in court activities, retreats, prayer services, garage sales, spring cleaning, children and grandchildren's spring activities, etc. Please make time just for yourself and for prayer.

I am sad to say that I will not be able to attend the national convention. I was so looking forward to representing Montana as your State Regent and coming home with many new ideas to share with all our members. But I'm sure information from the many workshops will be available on the national website after convention.

When the nominating committee calls you to ask if you would like to be a local court officer, please, please say YES! You will not regret it! And if you want to be considered for an office—let one of the committee members know you are interested.

The State Board will be presenting a Fall Retreat/Workshop in Billings and Wibaux. Both courts have generously agreed to host the events. When the board meets on March 19th we will pick tentative dates for this fall and your Court Regent will be notified with the information this spring.

Thank you for ALL you do! Remember you Can Do Anything!

God bless! Stay safe, Happy Easter and Happy Spring!

Patty Kepp, MT State Regent

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



Message from National Regent and Montana National Representative Sherry Nilles

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." 1 Cor: 12.

Is God calling your name? The next question - to what is God calling you? More questions will follow - how, when, why? Sometimes the next question is why me? Answering those questions takes the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples what to expect and look forward to with His words at the time of Pentecost. We are disciples of Jesus, so we must also be ready to listen to God's call and be willing to answer.

The nominating committee is asking for members to answer the call to service by accepting a nomination to be an officer in your court. Please be open to that call.

Each member has unique gifts. All those gifts are needed to work together for the greater honor and glory of God. Answer the question why me? with why not me?

Thank you for being a good member of Catholic Daughters. Thank you for answering the call with a resounding yes.

God bless you.

Sherry Nilles
National Regent



Message from State Chaplain Father Greg Staudinger

As the winter draws on, in the coming months. In parts of the State winter hasn't been too bad, but on the Hi-line winter has been brutal for the most part. The days are getting longer as the months progress, each day is longer with the sunlight. As Lent approaches March 2nd, It brings us to a solemn season to reflect on ourselves and the next six weeks to come. With that the coming of Easter and new life to nature with the blooming of flowers and trees with leaves. May the newness of Spring bring new life to us all and you be blessed in what it brings to you and yours.

Fr Greg Staudinger, MT State Chaplain

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



It is a humbling honor to be a member of the team representing Montana. We are striving to do the best we can, however, we can only be successful with the support of all our members, so, thank you for all you do locally and for our state. You ladies rock!

I would like to thank those who have sent prayers my direction. I am on a roller coaster ride with some family health issues and appreciate others helping me thru this, with prayer. You are appreciated more than words can express.

As our local courts are preparing for elections choosing women to lead us thru the next two years, please think about taking that courageous step forward and begin another chapter in your Catholic Daughter journey. Without 'u', there is no 'us'. Prayerfully consider being a leader in your local courts. We really do need you!

Let's have a great 2022. Don't forget to invite your lady friends to your monthly meetings. They just may surprise you and wish to become a member. New members are a blessing sharing their ideas and experiences with the court.

Happy Spring, Happy Easter, and Blessings & love to you all,

Jo Ann

Member: Ct. St. Mary, #645—Livingston



**Message from
Gale Kreitzberg
Montana 2nd Vice
State Regent**

**Lenten Prayer for
Transformation**



Loving Father, I invite you into my life today and make myself available to you.

Help me to become the best version of myself by seeking your will and becoming a living example of your love in the world.

Open my heart to the areas of my life that need to change in order for me to carry out the mission and experience the joy you have imagined for my life.

Inspire me to live the Catholic faith in ways that are dynamic and engaging.

Show me how to best get involved in the life of my parish.

Make our community hungry for best practices and continuous learning.

Give me courage when I am afraid, hope when I am discouraged, and clarity in times of decision.

Teach me to enjoy uncertainty and lead your Church to become all you imagined it would be for the people of our times.

Amen

Gale

Member: Ct. St. Cecelia #1151—Billings

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**.



Just a few reminders!

Every court should be electing their Nominating Committee this month. Please encourage each other to consider holding an office in your local court.

Court Regents—share the information from the National Quarterly Newsletters with your members.

All members should receive an emailed copy of the Montana State Newsletter if we have an updated email address for you. Also, all Court Regents and Recording Secretaries will receive a hard copy. If we do not have an email address for your court officers you will receive a hard copy, as well.

Dues: Remember to keep your court rosters up-to-date. Send in change forms for additions, deletions, addresses—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 2020. All members may receive a copy.

Helpful information from one of our Montana State Projects: *Poor Clares of Montana*

published in their Winter 2021 End of Year Newsletter “Montana Monastery Musings” answers to frequently asked questions...

- We all take turns cooking meals. We are all good cooks. However, Sr. Catherine's expertise will be hard to equal!
- We do not sell, publish, or give your personal information to anyone.
- Each of our Poor Clare communities is autonomous, so there is no Motherhouse. Each community is responsible for paying their own bills.
- We do not sell or give away our mailing list.
- We always use photos we have taken or that are “free to use and share” in our newsletters.
- Our income comes from donations and hospitality.



Message from Pam Boner, State Treasurer

Hello to my fellow
Catholic Daughters,

How is your Lenten season
going? A time of sacrifice or good works?

Two years ago I became a member of St. Bernard's
Parish, Billings. At the Mass before Ash Wednesday
Fr. Dave spoke about the youth group here.

They were doing challenges, sacrifices and good works
for Lent. Each week, during Lent, there were 5 or 6
things to choose from to earn a T-Shirt at the end of
Lent. 30 - 45 challenges in all. They could do as many
as they wanted but had to do at least one or two each
week.

Some ideas..... Come to youth group on Wednes-
day. Come to a complete stop at a stop sign. Listen to
the Catholic radio on your way to school. Give someone
you don't know a compliment every day for five
days. Sit in a different seat at church than you usual-
ly do. Give up bottled water. Do your siblings chores
one day. Say a blessing before every meal.

I love this concept and have embraced it in my Lenten
journey. It makes me have a different outlook on how
I embrace life and treat others. In fact one of the
ideas I chose two years ago I am still doing today. I
couldn't wait for this year's list.

Of course, I still give up ice in my high-balls.

Peace to you in this Lenten season,

Pam

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



Country Prayer for Lent

Catholic Online / Prayers

Dear Lord, we are now in the holy season of Lent. We begin
to realize anew that these are the days of salvation, these
are the acceptable days. We know that we are all sinners.
We know that in many things we have all offended Your
infinite majesty. We know that sin destroys Your life in us as
a drought withers the leaves and chokes the life from the
land, leaving an arid, dusty desert. Help us now, Lord, in our
feeble attempts to make up for past sin. Bless our efforts
with the rich blessing of Your grace. Make us realize ever
more our need of penance and of mortification. Help us to
see, in our ordinary difficulties and duties, in the trials and
temptations of every day, the best opportunity of making up
for past infidelities. Every day we are so often reminded in
field and wood, in sky and stream, of Your own boundless
generosity to us. Help us to realize that You are never out-
done in generosity, and that the least thing we do for You
will be rewarded, full measure, pressed down, shaken to-
gether, and flowing over. Then we shall see, in our own
souls, how the desert can blossom, and the dry and wasted
land can bring forth the rich, useful fruit that was expected
of it from the beginning. Amen.

DEADLINES—DATES—IDEAS

Deadlines & Dates

March 1, 2022 deadline:

Hoping all courts have remembered to mail Circle of
Love, Education Contest entries and Newsletter entries
to the State Chairpersons by March 1st.

March 15, 2022 deadline:

The Delegate/Alternate forms for the National Con-
vention should have been mailed. If you have not, please
do and don't forget to send a copy to the State Regent.

May 1, 2022 deadline:

- Financial Reviews need to be completed and mailed
before the May deadline. Weather permitting, a State
Officer or District Deputy will attend your courts FR.
- Convention Program Booklet Ad—if your court
would like to purchase an ad for the booklet, please
refer to the "First Call to Convention" received by your
Court Regent.

Ideas

- Send information on your court to the state news-
letter editor and the state website editor. We would
like to include what is going on in your area!
- Send events from your court to the Share Magazine
as well as The Harvest.



Message from Peg Smith, State Secretary

Greetings all!

There is always so much to look forward
to in the Spring!



We believe that winter has ended and soon we will
enjoy longer days of light; and we can't wait to see
flowers, and even insects again.

Maybe you will be able to experience a little travel this
spring!

Maybe you are newly elected to your Court with a new
adventure ahead of you.

There are always opportunities with our names on them
wherein we can love our Neighbors, Sisters, and family.
Just as God is calling us to do.

Whatever or wherever you find yourself this Spring,
I pray that you find God in it!

I pray that you are richly blessed.

Peg

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 up and running. If you would
like to submit information, pictures, ideas, please
contact Jo Ann Harper, State Website Editor.

State Board Calendar—2022 Tentative Calendar—2022

- January 15, 2022: State Board—virtual meeting
- March 2022: Published newsletter
- March 19, 2022: State Board meeting—Billings
- April 2022: State Officers or District Deputies visit
courts for Financial Reviews (weather permitting)
- Fall Retreat/Workshop:
Court Our Lady of Victory #1383—Wibaux (host)
Court St. Cecelia #1151—Billings (host)
Please watch for information on the dates!



Catholic Extension a National Charity

Tess Cersovski, National Director; National Projects/Charities

Will you consider helping with this fantastic opportunity to evangelize our Catholic faith? After reading the following article and learning about Catholic Extension, please consider donating through your court or individually to Catholic Daughters of the Americas. We encourage local courts and state courts to have special fundraisers for this National Charity. This is one way we can answer Pope Francis' call to support the poorest of poor Catholics in our country! Catholic Extension has been described as one of the best kept secrets in the Catholic Church. Exactly what is it? Wikipedia states: "Catholic Extension is a national fundraising 501 organization which supports and strengthens poor mission dioceses across the United States." Serving one in every five people of the United States, Catholic Extension fulfills its mission of working in solidarity with people in America's poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. Catholic Extension focuses on six principal areas: developing leaders, building churches, strengthening ministries, reaching out to the poor & vulnerable, educating seminarians, and engaging youths. In past years Catholic Extension gave annual assistance to 550+ seminarians, 770+ scholarships to Catholic universities for lay leaders and religious sisters, and 2,000 grants awarded to dioceses. Additional grants have been awarded to help improve religious residences. Catholic Extension's funding supports isolated and/or financially under-resourced Catholic dioceses in the United States. These "Extension Dioceses" are reviewed and approved by Catholic Extension's Board of Governors. Catholic Extension is the only producer of Catholic calendars that gives 100% of proceeds to fund grants that benefit poor mission dioceses where faith is thriving, but the resources are scarce. Many parishes in the United States give out these calendars for free. Catholic Extension is fulfilling Pope Francis' call for all Catholics to be more "missionary." By sending donations for Catholic Extension, we are fulfilling the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Remember Our Projects and Charities!

Each year Catholic Daughters provide funding and much needed financial help for those who have suffered losses, illnesses, and especially at this time from pandemic.



Courts are asked to help financially alleviate some of the problems our sisters in Christ, friends, family and neighbors are suffering. (Please see—the National Projects and Charities listed on page 5 of this MT State Newsletter.)

As your courts are meeting in-person now, please consider making gifts to our projects and charities. May God continue to bless you for the loving care shared for all God's people.

Court St. Mary #645—Livingston has glassware for purchase, which was ordered for the 2021 State CDA Convention. Stemmed wine glass \$9, Stemless wine glass \$5, Mason jar glass \$5. Contact Jo Ann Harper 1-406-223-9046 if you are interested.



2022 59th Biennial National Convention

July 20-24, 2022 - Puerto Rico

"LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE WITH LOVE"

Catholic Daughters of the Americas History—The Third Millennium

The Catholic Daughters has a continuous working relationship with Habitat for Humanity International in building affordable housing for the poor. CDA was one of the first women's organizations to complete a house in Habitat's seven day "Blitz Build." To date, Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Court have assisted in building 32 Habitat homes. In addition, at least two states, Texas and Minnesota have assisted with financing and building many more.

Shirley Seyfried, Past National Regent, holds observer status at the NCCB meetings. She also serves on the boards of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, Morality in Media, and of the Labouré Society. Grace Rinaldi, Past National Regent, attended the World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China and was a part of a delegation of women in a follow-up study.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is a member of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

Today, under the leadership of National Regent Sherry Nilles, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas has nearly 63,000 members in 1,250 courts in the United States and her territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, and Mexico.

[Catholicdaughters.org/history](https://catholicdaughters.org/history)



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.

A prayer of peace

Merciful God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine and their family members around the world. We ask that all those involved respond with wisdom and courage and that a peaceful resolution may be achieved. Lord, during these challenging times please lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust and lead us from hatred to love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

holyspiritrochester.org

*God Bless and prayers to the people of Ukraine!
And prayers to the innocent people of Russia and neighboring countries who do not agree with this war on Ukraine.*

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
- Smile Train
- 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

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

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

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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 / Leadership / Public Relations

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* contact Gale if Patty or Jo Ann are not available

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

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

* Circle of Love Chairman: Leadership/Public Relations

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

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

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