



Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

Montana

December 2021



Message from State Regent Patty Kepp

Hello my dear sisters in Christ! Hoping you all had a wonderful fall and blessed

Thanksgiving. By the time you receive this newsletter I'm hoping you are participating in projects, court meetings and Christmas events preparing for the birth of our Lord.

The state board has been busy trying to come up with ideas for possible Spring 2022 workshops. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

Included in this newsletter are hopefully words of wisdom, reminders, ideas, dates, prayers, projects, etc... that you will find educational and useful.

Please start thinking about the 59th Biennial National Convention to be held in Puerto Rico July 20-24, 2022. All officers and members are invited. You can take your spouse, children, parents and participate in the pre and post convention tours, or just treat yourself to a wonderful time of sisterhood. Please watch for information in the CDA National Quarterly Newsletter, plus convention packets. These will be mailed to your local court regents. Be sure to send in your delegate lists when you receive them even if you may not be attending, just in case!

It is time for the election of local court officers this coming spring. Be thinking ahead if you would like to be on your local court nominating committee and/or nominated as a court officer position. **YES, YOU CAN DO THIS! DO NOT BE AFRAID—ALL CURRENT AND PREVIOUS OFFICERS HAVE BEEN IN YOUR SHOES—BELIEVE ME, IT DOESN'T HURT AT ALL!**



Remember your Education Contest, Newsletter Contest and Circle of Love entries all due to the state chairmen by March 1, 2022.



God bless you all! Have a Merry Christmas and safe and Happy New Year!

Patty Kepp
Montana State Regent

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



Message from National Regent Montana National Representative Sherry Nilles

Making winter productive

It's that time of year! Shorter daylight hours and many more dark hours. Less time spent in the sunshine and out of doors. More time spent in the house. This is the perfect time of year to increase prayer time. God is always ready to listen. Talk to Him! Talk to his mother, Mary. Take the opportunity to do a self-evaluation and work on improving a relationship with God.

It is also a good time to volunteer and help those who have difficulty leaving the house because of the cold and snow. The winter can be lonely days for the home-bound. Enjoy a cup of coffee with a friend. That will make the winter shorter for them and for you!

Take time this winter to communicate with God and those who are lonely.

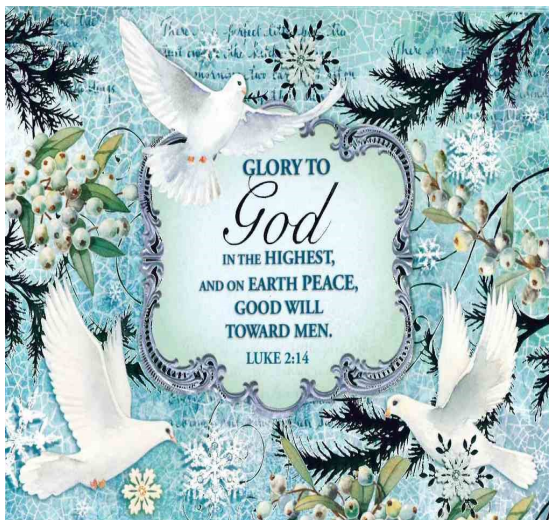
Blessings for a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year!

Sherry Nilles
National Regent,
National Representative for Montana



State Chaplain Father Greg Staudinger

**Have a blessed Christmas
and joyous New Year!**



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Welcome to another year of Catholic Daughters!

Hopefully, most courts are able to get back to 'normal' during the year. Our meetings in person are so much more effective when we can discuss issues and plans in person. We all need to do whatever we are comfortable doing.

This past year was quite the exhausting year for myself and the Court St. Mary members. Hosting a state convention is demanding enough, but we also celebrated our 100th Anniversary in May, and continued our celebrating throughout the convention in June. We put ourselves out there and boy, am I proud of those ladies!! I've heard mentioned several times 'at least we won't be around to plan our 200th anniversary'. Amen to that!

I thank the members of Montana for putting your faith in me as a state officer. I will proudly do the best I can to serve as your 1st Vice State Regent for the next two years working under your State Regent Patty Kepp. I hope you are all ok with us having fun as your state officers, because we always seem to find ways and the time to enjoy life, before and after our work as officers is done. Then you throw in Treasurer Pam Boner, and who knows what the outcome will be? I am sure that we will be of 'some' influence on our newest officers, 2nd Vice State Regent Gale Kreitzburg and Secretary Peg Smith. It's all good! Thank you ladies for stepping up..... we really appreciate it. We are here to support and help you however we can.

As the holiday season is upon us, my prayer for all of us is to enjoy our families and friends as much as we possibly can. Life is too short to put off what we can do today. Travel, visit someone you haven't seen in quite some time, donate to an organization you keep saying you want to, attend an extra Mass or two, make someone smile and by doing any of these things, you are keeping Christ in Christmas. Blessings to you all, and hoping that 2022 brings you good health and happiness, and maybe a little wealth along the way. Love you guys!

Montana 1st Vice State Regent

Jo Ann Harper

Member: Ct. St. Mary, #645—Livingston



"Everything we do should be a result of our gratitude for what God has done for us."

-Lauryn Hill
in Country Living

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

I want to begin by expressing how grateful I am for being able to represent my parish and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization in this process of the synod. Being a part of this process has given me a greater appreciation for our Catholic faith, the hierarchy and guidance of the church officials, and the value the Holy Spirit plays in our daily lives. The process of the synod was to have purposeful and meaningful conversations concerning the definition of family and how to strengthen the faith within the family, however the family unit is defined for members of our church. The bishop was present during all discussions to better understand the suggestions given in text. Ultimately, the synod's purpose was to gather information from a variety of members of our Diocese to create a document to help the bishop prepare his declaration of how to strengthen the faith among our families. Bishop Warfel will begin to write his formal document and hopes to have his final draft ready to share with parishes by February, 2022.

As we discussed our faith and how to help educate our parishioners, I became aware of the wonderful opportunities we have to share the faith with our own families and members of our parish families with celebrations of Eucharistic Adoration, Rosaries, and adult catechesis. As Catholic Daughters, I'm proud to be a member of such an organization that continues to support our church families in our service supporting our parish priests.

Again, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Bethany Fuchs

Member: Court Our Lady of Fatima #1979—Hardin



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)



Greetings from your newly elected 2nd Vice State Regent,

I am very honored to have this opportunity to serve the State Court and all the Courts in Montana. I have been a member of Court St. Cecelia #1151 in Billings for about 10 years and currently serving as the Court Regent. It was great to have the State Spiritual Reflection and Workshop in Billings once again. I hope all those who attended enjoyed it as much as I did. I look forward to being a part of future State events and getting to know all of you better.

God Bless

Gale Kreitzberg, MT 2nd Vice State Regent

Member: Ct. St. Cecelia #1151—Billings



Hello to my fellow Catholic Daughters,
Can you believe this weather? Beautiful !! 😊
We had a wonderful spiritual retreat and reflection Oct 2nd at St Bernard's Parish here in Billings. Our guest speaker, Karen Brannon from the Spiritual Care department at St Vincent, did a fantastic job talking about life. It was a great day reconnecting, praying and enjoying each other. And of course the food.

With the holidays just around the corner, I would like to list my top ten things I'm thankful for. 1. My family 2. My friends 3. My health 4. People are back to work 5. Less masks 6. CDA meetings 7. The weather 8. My CDA books balanced 9. Your CDA books balanced 10. YOU

I hope this year will continue to bring us closer to Christ and our community. That we will continue to be blessed and to appreciate what we already have.

Happy Holidays,

Pam Boner, MT State Treasurer

Dual Membership:
Ct. St. Katherine #239 Glendive & 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.



A Note from your State Secretary,

At the Fall Retreat in Billings, I was installed as the State Secretary. I am also currently Recording Secretary for Court St. Cecelia in Billings.

That is a lot of notetaking and organizing, isn't it? I promise to give it my all! After retiring from Billings Clinic in 2018, I joined Court St. Cecelia and have found a good fit for me in Catholic Daughters. In my new position, I look forward to learning more about Catholic Daughters of the Americas, our protocols and history. I hope that I am worthy of this privilege to serve you and look forward to building friendships through our interactions.

Hoping you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Merry Christmas.

God Bless.

Peg Smith, MT State Secretary

Member: Ct. St. Cecelia #1151—Billings



DEADLINES—DATES—IDEAS

Deadlines

March 1, 2022 deadline:

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

Ideas

- Please send and share information about your court with the state newsletter editor and the state website editor. We would like to share what is going on in your neck of the woods!
- Send events from your court to the Share Magazine as well as The Harvest (how to is posted in both publications).
- Information for the 2022 National Convention—coming soon. Pay attention to deadlines!

State Board Calendar—2021

Tentative Calendar—2021/2022

- October 2: State Board presents "Fall Spiritual Reflection & Workshop"
- November 4: State directories mailed to courts
- November 16: State Board virtual meeting thru "Zoom", 7:00 p.m.
- December 2021: Publish newsletter
- January 15, 2022: State Board meeting, Billings, 9:00 a.m.

**From Dawn Fortenberry
National Chairman of Membership and Development**

Heavenly Father, as we venture into growing our membership, we come before You asking for Your guidance, wisdom and support.
Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make contact with others.
Remind us that all we do, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of your kingdom, and for the service of humanity.
Guide our hearts...our words...our actions, to be a shining light for all to see.
May the face of Christ shine through.
We ask Your Mother, our patroness, by her powerful intercession, to be with us as we witness to others.
We ask all these things in Your most Holy name. Amen



2022 59th Biennial National Convention

July 20-24, 2022 - Puerto Rico

"LET ALL YOU DO BE DONE WITH LOVE"

Adapting to Change

by Essie Walker, 2nd Vice National Regent

Take a moment to look back over the last several months. In our personal lives and within the organization there have been many changes and challenges? We have been and will continue to be surrounded by daily changes and challenges. When it comes to change; it can be difficult for some. Everyone's concerns should be taken into consideration. What can one do as leader to present the change to others? It will help if the leader is on board with the change. Prior to presenting the change; take a moment to define and analyze why the change is needed and just how it will affect or benefit those involved. It's important to seek out the opinions of others on the team.

While maintaining a positive attitude will encourage others to be on board with the change. Negativity will not help or encourage. The change should be workable, clear and concise and communicated to all involved.

The ability to adapt to the changing and sometime challenging times; it's important to stay focused on:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Prayer Adaptability | Maintaining a positive attitude |
| Open Communication | Asking for assistance when needed |
| Listening well | Teamwork |
| Inspiring and Empowering others | |
| Setting goals and share visionary ideals with others | |
| Assisting with problem solving | |
| Leading the way by setting a good example | |

This article is published in the Sept 2021 National Catholic Daughters of the Americas Quarterly Newsletter.

Court St. Mary #645 in Livingston has glassware for purchase, which was ordered for the 2021 State CDA Convention. There is a stemmed wine glass for \$9, a stemless wine glass and a mason jar glass for \$5 each. Please contact Jo Ann Harper at 1-406-223-9046 if you are interested. They could make a great gift at Christmas time.



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. The cushions are \$15 each.



Just a few reminders!

It's never too early to start thinking about holding a position as a local court officer. Elections will be held in each local court "Spring 2022".

Please share the information from the National Quarterly—December 2021 Newsletter with your members along with the information from the Montana State CDA newsletters.

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.

Education Contest: Themes for 2022: "With God All things are Possible" Mt. 19:26 or "Where is God in my life when I am struggling?"

Newsletter Contest: One of the most important tools for your court.... inform * motivate * inspire

Please review the documents the Court must submit to the State Regent monthly and annually. Bylaws pages 35-36

Remember each court officer should have a copy of the current Bylaws—Amended July 2020. All members may receive a copy.

Remember to work on your Budgets and Standing Rules for the new year. (If you have not all ready!)

***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!
- National Center on Sexual Exploitation

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

Patty Kepp

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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

FIRST VICE REGENT

Jo Ann Harper

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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*