



# CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS California State

## 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Unity and Charity

## GOLDEN STATE TIDINGS

Volume 40 – December 2023

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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.



From your California State Board and Chairmen  
Chaplain Erick Villa

State Regent Maria Santos-Silva

First Vice State Regent Lorine Bakowsky

Second Vice State Regent Sheri Kanagawa

State Secretary Yvonne Connolly

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Family - Laura McQuoid

Leadership - Ismaela Muniz Heiden

Legislation - Patty Lepe

Quality of Life - Andrea Rodriguez-Ochoa

Spiritual Enhancement - Wynsdey Adams

Youth/JCDA - Maribel Lara

Membership/Extension-North - Maureen Laubacher

Membership/Extension-Central - Kathi Morris

Parliamentarian – Laura Vacca

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## FROM OUR STATE REGENT

Dear CA CDA Members

Membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is a unique and beautiful gift we give ourselves, we are a group, a national group, of Catholic women. Although CDA's are known for our service to our parish and our communities, the one thing we know as members of the Catholic Daughters of America is that when we have a sister who needs prayers, we get our rosaries out and we start praying.

As your State Regent, I feel it is my responsibility to let the membership of the California Catholic Daughters of Americas know that I have recently had some medical tests done. I can assure you that it is nothing too serious in comparison to what others must deal medically with but concerning just the same, I am starting the New Year on a new health journey. I am asking at this time for your prayers and support as I continue in my role as your State Regent, and I work towards dealing with the health issues that I have recently been made aware of. I really am not able to share any more information than that currently, I am in the early stages of my testing but know that it is **Not Cancer**, and overall, I am **very strong and healthy**. I have a proactive Doctor and an amazing care team who found something unexpected very early. I am going to be just fine. It will just take some adapting, patience, time, and most importantly, Prayers.

I would also like to let you know that our **Past State Regent, Mary Bernard**, suffered a major health crisis earlier this month. She is in recovery, and we know through all our prayers, support and her strength and determination she will make a full recovery. Mary is asking for privacy currently; however she can text if you would like to send her messages of support. I ask that you keep her in your prayers at this time as well.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding, please keep PSR Mary Bernard, all our CDA Sisters as well as myself in your prayers. Remember you pray for me, and I pray for you, that is what Catholic Daughters do. God Bless you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

### STATE CHAPLAIN ~ FATHER ERICK VILLA



Christmas is almost here! But lest we forget about the need to intentionally and purposely prepare for it, we are to pause and celebrate the season of Advent as a season of hope.

Hope is such an important Christian virtue. Hope is more than optimism. We can be optimistic about all kinds of things but, strictly speaking, the object of hope is always God. Hope is rooted in faith. We are hopeful because we believe in a God who can bring life out of death, light out of darkness. It is above all, in dark times that we need hope. In these dark days and dark times, Advent, the season of hope, is very timely.

Saint Paul encourages us to look at life, and, especially, at people with hopeful eyes instead, even in dark times. To look at people with hopeful eyes is to be alert to all that is good in their lives and to celebrate that goodness. It is to name, to ourselves, and to others, what they have

done more than what they have failed to do; to be mindful of what people could become with God's help.

Today more than ever, we need to look at ourselves and at others with those kinds of hopeful eyes. God's good work has only begun in us. We are a work in progress, and, in spite of our failings, God will keep on working to bring the good work He has been doing in ourselves to completion. This I must say again: God only asks us to cooperate with His ongoing work in our lives so He can bring it to completion and reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us.

The great call of Advent is to receive the Lord's daily presence, His daily coming. Turning towards the Lord to receive His coming means turning away from attitudes or actions that are a block to His coming. It means creating a little bit more space for the Lord in our lives by turning towards Him in prayer – the quiet, inviting prayer of Advent, which finds expression in the simple and yet profound little prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus, come!" knowing that the Lord's coming in love will renew us from within, empowering us to begin again ... to become more like Him, caring shepherds to one another, so that He can work through us to bring about the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Wishing you a grace-filled Christmas,

*Father Erick Villa*



**FIRST VICE NATIONAL REGENT/NATIONAL SUPERVISOR ~ Essie Walker**



My dear sisters in Christ,

Advent and the Christmas holiday season are upon us. Advent gives us time to reflect, prepare our hearts, minds, and homes for the birth of Christ. During the season of preparation.

As we celebrate the holidays, it is a momentous time to bond our family cultures and give back to the community. When we open our hearts and minds, we will make an impact on those around us and those we serve. Think of the smile on a child's face, when we share their favorite book, a meal with a homeless person who has no shelter or an elderly person or couple living along.

Now is the perfect time to focus on the upcoming holidays and events to determine how we can celebrate together and to focus on others. Celebrating together will allow us to fellowship, share our time and talents, enhance our spirituality by sharing our faith with others, bring closeness in our relationships, show how thankful we are for our many blessings, help those who are along and away from family, feed and clothe the homeless, assist our elderly, show random acts of kindness, sponsor our veterans, and establish new relationships. There are so many opportunities open to us to come together in celebration during these holidays that will allow us to serve others and each other as CDA sisters.

It is important that we continue to educate ourselves and our children on the real meaning of Christmas. Durning this season take a moment to make lasting memories with family and friends. Family traditions are a wonderful way to make Christmas more meaningful. Simple but meaningful traditions are always the best.

Blessings and happy holidays to you and your family.

In Unity,

**Essie Walker**



*I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you invited me in,  
I needed clothes and you clothed me,  
I was sick and you looked after me,  
I was in prison, and you came to visit me...  
Whatever you did for one of the least of these  
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.  
Matthew 25:36, 40 NIV*

## STATE REGENT ~ Maria Santos-Silva



During this busy time of year while we are all running around making sure we have all the preparations ready for our Families Christmas celebrations and all those extra celebrations, please make sure to take the time to reflect on your own God given Gifts and how you can share them. As we travel through the Christmas Season and all the gifts to give do not forget the best Gift you can Give your Courts and Communities is your "God given Gift of Leadership" And this could be the most important gift you give all year.

Your Leadership skills are your own and we all have them. God has Blessed you with the skills needed to accomplish all that he has planned for you. But do you share those gifts, or do you keep them safe in our comfort zones? Ask yourself, if you see a need to step into a leadership role to help promote the greater good what is holding you back from sharing your God given gifts.

Leadership – "The gifted leader is one who rules, presides over, or has the management of other people. The word literally means "guide" and carries with it the idea of one who steers a ship." The gift of leadership rules with wisdom and grace and exhibits the fruit of the Spirit in life and leads by example. Leaders come in all shapes and sizes. There is a plethora of Leadership Styles. For those of you who attended our DD/Leadership Workshop remember "The Bears" .

We are blessed that Catholic Daughters has very specific instructions on most of the elements of our organization. When stepping into a CDA Leadership Role you have access to a National Playbook of what it will take to succeed. That said, as you take the time to celebrate the Christmas Season and are thinking about all the gifts to give, also when you start to make your New Year's resolutions add to your list: "Fill a Leadership Role in my CDA Court." Give the Gift of Leadership to your Court and Community this year and help your CDA Court to continue to grow, thrive and continue all the good works in your community.

Give the Best Gift of all. Your God Given Gift of Leadership!

I pray that each one of us has a Blessed and Beautiful Christmas and that all of us are Gifted Good Health and Happiness in the New Year.

Merry Christmas!

*Maria Santos-Silva*

*"In the same way, your light must shine so that it can be seen by others; this will enable them to observe your good works and give praise to your Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 5:16*

## SECOND VICE STATE REGENT ~ Sheri Kanagawa



As the cold weather starts to roll into our beautiful state, each of us is preparing our homes, souls and bodies for the coming of Christ, our Savior. We are going to Advent retreats or teas, bible studies or workshops and even reading scriptures to prepare for the birth of Christ. As I was reading, I found this verse and it just touched my heart. I hope it touches yours too.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE CHOPPING DOWN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE REPRESENTS THE DEATH OF CHRIST AND PUTTING IT BACK UP REPRESENTS THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST?

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE WREATHS WE HANG ARE NEVER ENDING CIRCLES THAT REPRESENT ETERNITY?

CANDY CANES WERE MADE TO LOOK LIKE SHEPHERD HOOKS AND THE COLORS, RED FOR JESUS' BLOOD. WHITE FOR PURITY.

THE GIFTS, REPRESENT THE THREE GIFTS THE WISE MEN BROUGHT FOR BABY JESUS.

SO WHEN YOU ARE RUNNING AROUND TRYING TO FIND THE "PERFECT GIFT," STOP YOURSELF, TAKE A DEEP BREATH AND REMEMBER, WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PERFECT GIFT, JESUS CHRIST WAS GIVEN TO US TO REMOVE ALL OUR SINS. AMEN!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EACH OF YOU AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Blessings to each of you,

*Sheri Kanagawa*

## STATE SECRETARY ~ Yvonne Connolly



The season of Advent is a time of waiting, preparation and of hope. Waiting for that special gift of a baby in a manger in Bethlehem. The anticipation of the miracle of birth, and the preparation, so we are ready to welcome this child into our hearts and lives. Who amongst us can deny the amazing love a new baby brings? The Lord gave us all these precious gifts when He sent his Son to us in the form of a new life here on earth. The hope that this brings to us as Catholic Daughters and to a world so sorely in need of this precious gift. All we must do is accept it.

Let us take time from the hustle and bustle of shopping, decorating and baking and take some time to reflect in our hearts and minds, to pray and prepare ourselves to welcome and accept this most special gift of all, so freely given.

I wish you all a blessed and joy filled Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and special memories.

*Yvonne Connolly*



## CIRCLE OF LOVE STATE CHAIRMEN

A circle is a curved line with every point equal distance from the point of the center and bound together by the common interest. The seven-point program of the CIRCLE OF LOVE is bound together by the common interest - LOVE.

### EDUCATION

**Cheryl Vitali ~ [Cheryl.Vitali@gmail.com](mailto:Cheryl.Vitali@gmail.com)**



'Tis the season to deck the halls and bring light into the darkness. There is nothing quite like the stress that can come over the Christmas and Epiphany time of the Church yet if our focus is on the reason, the Christ child, the light shines forth. We definitely live in times where that light needs to shine fiercely and brightly in our lives as Catholic Daughters and women of faith following the example of our Blessed Mother. Light fits perfectly into the theme for 2023 the Educational Contest and I hope every Court submits winning projects this year. With various age divisions, there is a possibility to honor every Court in our State.

The theme this year is absolutely beautiful and fits in so many possible ways. "God's love and kindness will shine upon us like the sun that rises in the sky," (Luke 1:78) or how does my love shine for others? Looking at it from the second perspective makes it easy to see how it can be made accessible to be used with children in public or private education. Nor is this limited just to children.

As the State Educational Chairperson, I would like to encourage each of you to think about how you can help have entries for the Circle of Life in Education. If you have a child, you can help them submit a project, If you have a grandchild or nieces and nephews, you can help them submit a project. If you teach CCD or RCIA, you can encourage individuals to submit a project. If you have a junior court, please submit entries. You can also submit a project on your own. Look at the guidelines on the National Catholic Daughter website and it is obvious there can be a submission on a wide array of talents: Photography, Art, Essay, Computer Art, Poetry, Music. Set a deadline for entries so your Court is able to select first place winners in each category sometime in February so the entries can be mailed in time for the March 1 deadline. Only one per category yet make a celebration of the entries by possibly putting them up at display at your Church or parochial school if there is one. Nor does it need to just be limited to parochial schools as the theme is broad enough to be embraced in a regular classroom setting as well. Winners will be announced at the State Retreat at Three Rivers on Memorial Day weekend and the winners there will be sent on to the National Convention which is being held in New Orleans this August. Make the focus not on winning, on the celebrating of everyone's talents and that will bring light to everyone at a time when we all need it so much. Also check out the Scholarship application to share with those who might be able to submit applications. There are cash prizes for winners at the National Level. It cannot be emphasized how much this can encourage younger people as I recollect as an educator how much it meant to my Special Education students when they won awards and recognition for their work or when my daughter read an award winning essay in a William Saroyan competition.

Here is a little from the National Web site. It is a few pages long so please log onto this website <https://catholicdaughters.org/circle-of-love> and look further for exact details for entries. There are detailed specifications for length of essay, how to submit a photograph, and so forth.

THEMES OF CONTEST:

(Choose One) God's love and kindness will shine upon us like the sun that rises in the sky.  
Luke 1:78

OR How does my love shine for others?

Divisions & Categories: Note: Students may be Catholic and Non-Catholic

Division 1 Grades 4-5 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art Division

2 Grades 6-7-8 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography Division

3 Grades 9-10-11-12 Essay, Poetry, Art, Computer Art, Music, Photography Division

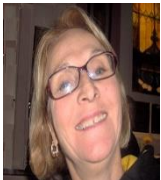
4 Adult CDA members Poetry, Art, Photography

So it is easy to see there are a lot of possibilities. If I were not the State Chairperson, I would be tempted to send a sunrise photograph I took in Hawaii or submit a poem. The deadline will be here in no time so think about how you do this while you deck your halls, mail your Christmas cards, bake cookies, go to special services and events, and most of all spend time before the blessed Sacrament and our Savior. How do we let our light shine for others? Let it envelope the entire Earth in this Advent Season, bringing hope and encouragement to all.

*Cheryl Vital*

**FAMILY**

**Laura McQuoid ~ [l\\_mcquoid@yahoo.com](mailto:l_mcquoid@yahoo.com)**



Sisters in Christ,

I invite you to join in a moment of reflection and connection.

An Advent Prayer

As we gather together in the warmth of your love and the joy of the Christmas Season, we thank you for the gift of family and the bonds that unite us as sisters in Christ.

Jesus, as we celebrate your birth; may your light shine brightly in our hearts and homes. May the spirit of love, peace, and goodwill fill every corner of our lives.

Holy Spirit, bless our conversations with laughter and warmth. May our time together be a reflection of the love that you, our savior, have brought into the world.

We offer our prayers for those who are in need, and we ask for your guidance and strength as we strive to live out the true meaning of Christmas.

May the Grace of this season be with us today and always. Amen

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

*Laura McQuoid*



## LEADERSHIP

**Ismaela Muniz-Heiden ~ [ismaela.muniz@gmail.com](mailto:ismaela.muniz@gmail.com)**



Blessings CDA Sisters in Christ, it is that time again, a time of preparation for the arrival of our Lord's birth! I would like to wish everyone a very blessed season of gatherings in fellowship, love, and service to our Lord and each other. Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and all of yours! And in that vein, it is also time for us to prepare for some of the upcoming life events of CDA. I cannot state enough of what a privilege and honor it has been to be part of the various DD/Leadership Training events held throughout the state. By also being part of these events, I have had the pleasure of meeting some of my fellow CDA Sisters from near and far. Thank you all for not only attending and participating but also being welcoming and receptive. As your Leadership Chairman, I would like to encourage all Courts to be sure to complete and submit the Leadership Circle of Love Reporting Form, as well as all the reporting forms for the other spokes that are necessary in fulfilling our mission and motto. One of my other goals as your Leadership Chairman is to work with the CA DD Supervisors, Membership Chairmen, and DD's in ascertaining that all Courts are also preparing the 2024-2026 new slate of officers in your Courts. Please remember that as your H2H Commander, I am here to help and assist in whatever capacity I can so that we can continue to be successful.

Just the other day I heard a baseball coach being interviewed say that there is POWER in TEAM and that just resonated with me because I agree there is great power in working together as one body for our Lord and each other. Lastly, as I have mentioned previously, it would be my pleasure to attend one of your monthly meetings and personally meet all of you. In the event I have not reached out to you, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Continued blessings to you and all of yours and do not forget . . . I am HERE TO HELP (H2H)!

*Ismaela Muniz Heiden*

## SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT

**Wynsdey Adams ~ [damewynsdey@gmail.com](mailto:damewynsdey@gmail.com)**



Sisters, as we are in Advent and anxiously awaiting the birth of our lord, let us contemplate how ready we are to receive him. John the Baptist leapt for joy at his presence in the womb. Are we as joyful when we are in his presence? Do we recognize his presence? As I stated in my first article, I want to focus on Imago Dei. Where do we recognize him in our daily lives? Do you see him in your friends, your children, your neighbors or strangers? He is surely present in them all. My wish for us this advent is that not only are you joyful in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, but that you are joyful as you meet him every day with all of his children. We are all the image of God. To bring about the Christmas Joy let us all go out into the world ready to greet him with the Joy that John the Baptist met him with. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas.

Pax

*Wynsdey Adams*

## QUALITY OF LIFE ~ Andrea Rodriguez-Ochoa

Andrea Rodriguez-Ochoa ~ [arochoa28@yahoo.com](mailto:arochoa28@yahoo.com)



Hello, My Dear Sisters in Christ

It is a joyous time that we are already in the Christmas Season awaiting the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In waiting for this celebration we are also able to celebrate our Blessed Mother just before with the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe. Our parish priest asked our youth why Jesus and Mary are so important and why we love them so much. The children had some really good answers, but one young person knocked it out of the park. This child said that if Mary had not said yes, we would not have Jesus. We get to benefit from the love that they both had.

How can you have that kind of Love? The one thing that God commands is that we Love others as He Loves us. Now this time of year, we definitely step up to try to help others. Helping and donating at the food banks, providing blankets and warm clothes to the homeless, toys for children in need and many other creative service that you Catholic Daughter provide with Love and Generosity. The need for this Love and Generosity is needed year round and that is what we continue to do as you support your local and state charities. So I say to you, Thank you and keep up the great work.

During the month of November as the Gospels were taken from Matthew, the messages were also to be prepared for the second coming of Christ. Stay awake and be prepared. I have mentioned that one of my goals is to help us with our Quality of our Spiritual Life during this term.

I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New, when we get to celebrate our Blessed Mother on the first day of the year with the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

In Unity and Charity,

*Andrea Rodriguez-Ochoa*

## PARLIAMENTARIAN

Laura Vacca ~ [Lauraspencer.vacc@gmail.com](mailto:Lauraspencer.vacc@gmail.com)



Seasons Greeting to all our California Courts!

A Parliamentary Procedure not often discussed is How to Abstain from a Vote. I have found this website helpful in clearly focusing on Robert's Rules in small bites. There is also a proper way to record this in your meeting minutes.

The site is Board Effect. Please check out this site for helpful hints and to further view why a member abstains from a vote. And the difference between abstention and recusing oneself from the voting process.

<https://www.boardeffect.com/blog/roberts-rules-of-order-abstentions/>

## How to Abstain from a Vote

There are a few ways to abstain from a board vote.

Active abstention refers to a board member who verbally and clearly states their intention not to vote on a motion.

By contrast, passive abstention refers to veiling the decision not to vote. A board member might decide to cast an invalid vote by voting for an option that is not listed on the ballot or clicking the box marked "abstain."

Abstaining can also refer to a board member who does not show up to vote at all.

## How to Record an Abstention in Nonprofit Board Meeting Minutes

Abstentions may or may not be recorded in board meeting minutes, depending on the board's preference.

If your board chooses to record abstentions, you can record them one of three ways:

Record votes as pass or fail and add the names of abstainers and the reason for the abstention (conflict of interest, etc.).

Record votes as pass or fail with numbers (For example, the motion passed with 6 votes in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention).

Record a roll call vote with each board member's vote and yes/nay or aye/no after it or abstention with the reason. Note whether the motion passed or failed.

A survey will be sent out in January to find out which courts are interested in attending a zoom training of Robert's Rules basics and a chance to let us know the topics we need to focus on the most. Please look for the upcoming announcement in future emails/flocknotes.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year's celebrating the birth of our Lord and the love of family and friends.

*Laura Vacca*

## MEMBERSHIP/EXTENSION ~ CENTRAL

**Kathi Morris** ~ [Kathi.Morris51@comcast.net](mailto:Kathi.Morris51@comcast.net)



My Dear Sisters in Christ,

Amid the hustle of Christmas with putting up decorations, shopping, and planning gatherings – it is important to recall the Christian significance of gift-giving and the birth of Jesus. May His light illuminate your path and His peace fill your heart.

May you find comfort in the message of hope and salvation that the Christ Child brings. May your heart be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. May you feel God's presence in the candles that softly spread their glow at Christmas, and may you experience the wonder of His abiding love, as He guides you, through each day of the coming year.

My gift to one and all:

The light of the Christmas star to you,  
The warmth of home and hearth to you,

The cheer and goodwill of friends to you,  
The hope of a childlike heart to you,  
The joy of a thousand angels to you,  
The love of the Son and God's peace to you.  
~ *Irish Christmas Blessing*

Good news from heaven the angels bring,  
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:  
To us this day a child is given,  
To crown us with the joy of heaven.  
~ *Martin Luther*

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;  
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.  
~ *Wilda English*

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus,  
that we may share in the song of the angels,  
the gladness of the shepherds and the wisdom of the wise men.  
~ *Robert Louis Stevenson*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.  
~ *Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

Love came down at Christmas;  
love all lovely, love divine;  
love was born at Christmas,  
stars and angels gave the sign.  
~ *Christina G. Rossetti*

May the beautiful lights of every holiday season remind us of Him who is the source of all light.  
~ *David A. Bednar*

"Like God, Christmas is timeless and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting. It is something even more than what happened that night in starlit little Bethlehem; it has been behind the stars forever. There was Christmas in the heart of God before the world was formed."  
~ *Roy Rogers*

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

Faith makes all things possible,  
Hope makes all things work,  
Love makes all things beautiful,  
May you have all three this Christmas.

In Love and service  
*Kathi Morris*

# ANNIVERSARIES

## JANUARY

COURT	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2024
1079	Santa Maria	Santa Maria	1/22/1928	96
1267	La Purisima	Lompoc	1/16/1938	86
1553	St. Maria Goretti	Durham	1/21/1951	73
2024	Blessed Sacrament	Westminster	1/31/1971	53
2499	Our Lady of La Salette	Apple Valley	1/19/2002	22
2527	Blessed Jacinta	Layton	1/10/2004	20
2562	St. Madeline Sophie	Pomona	1/22/2006	18
2599	Our Lady of the Angels	North Hollywood	1/20/2008	16

## FEBRUARY

COURT	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2024
942	Compton	Compton	2/15/1925	99
1306	Our Lady of Peace	San Bernardino	2/26/1939	85
1462	Our Lady of the Valley	Coachella	2/8/1948	76
1557	St. Bernardine	Bellflower	2/11/1951	73
1930	Good Shepherd	San Bernardino	2/14/1965	59
1958	St. Gerard	Tulare	2/27/1966	58
2400	Mary, Queen of the World	San Leandro	2/11/1995	29
2563	John Paul II	Salinas	2/18/2006	18

## MARCH

COURT	COURT NAME	CITY	ANNIV DATE	2024
855	Angelus	Los Angeles	3/2/1924	100
1629	Our Lady of the Desert	Lancaster	3/22/1953	72
1669	Marian	Lakewood	3/14/1954	70

# DISTRICT DEPUTY & LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOPS

**OCTOBER 28, 2023: FINAL WORKSHOP @ OUR LADY OF THE DESERT  
CATHOLIC CHURCH – Host court was Our Lady of La Salette #2499**

Circle of Love Project: Split evenly between the Food Bank at Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church and State Charity Hermanas De La Oración Palmdale Holiday Food Drive





# CA STATE CDA BOARD MEETING & CHRISTMAS PARTY



CA CDA State Board Christmas Party Circle of Love Project Kitchen Supplies for a Local Family who had lost everything in a house fire.





A Beautiful way to end a lovely busy CA CDA Board/ Chairman Meetings weekend by attending mass at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church.

## NATIONAL NEWS

[Emily Guilherme, National Regent](#)

[www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)

Emily's theme: "Faith as small as a Mustard Seed can move Mountains" Matthew 17:20

### SAVE THE DATE: WALK FOR LIFE

#### Vigil Mass

When: Thursday, January 18, 2024

Where: Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

#### March for Life Walk

When: Friday, January 19, 2024

#### Legislative Talk @ 9:00 a.m.

When: Saturday, January 20, 2024

Where: Homewood Suites

**Accommodations: Homewood Suites**

### SAVE THE DATE: JCDA DAY

When: February 18, 2024

### SAVE THE DATE: JCDA SWEET RETREAT

When: Sunday, June 9 – Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Where: Embassy Suites by Hilton  
1000 Woodward Place NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Registration: \$199.00 per attendee

Registration fee includes 2 dinners, 2 lunches and breakfasts

Room Rate: \$149.00 plus tax

2 queen beds plus sofa sleeper

### SAVE THE DATE: 2024 60TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

When: August 14-18, 2024

Where: Riverside Hilton, New Orleans, Louisiana

### CDA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CONTEST RUNS FROM AUGUST 2022 – JUNE 2024:

It is that time again, time for recruiting new members! All on track for Courts to host membership drives, socials, fun nights, spiritual events, any event that spreads the word and attracts more passengers that could help us establish more CDA train stops with new court members! Climb aboard the CDA membership Train! Invite other women to experience the spiritual benefits and joys of being a Catholic Daughter!

#### Prize for local courts gaining the most members:

1<sup>st</sup> place = \$200

2<sup>nd</sup> place = \$150

3<sup>rd</sup> place = \$100

**Category 1:** 1-75 members

**Category 2:** 75-150 members

**Category 3:** 151 + members

#### Prize for State Courts instituting most new courts:

1<sup>st</sup> place = \$500

2<sup>nd</sup> place = \$350

3<sup>rd</sup> place = \$200

Contact: National Membership Chair M. Susan Hicks

Phone: 608-851-9137

Email: [WisconsinCDA@aol.com](mailto:WisconsinCDA@aol.com)

# ANNOUNCING: "A GIRL'S TRIP TO THE GRAND OLD LADY IN NEW YORK CITY" FUNDRAISER

For just \$50 you can help the 1903 Society and possibly win a fun trip to CDA Headquarters ("The Grand Old Lady") in the "Big Apple!" Click on the flyer below for downloadable Entry Form.

[Girl's Trip to the Grand Old Lady in NYC Click on the flyer below for a link to download and fill out your Entry Form and submit it. Maybe we will "see you in the Big Apple!" - Catholic Daughters of the Americas - New York, NY](#)

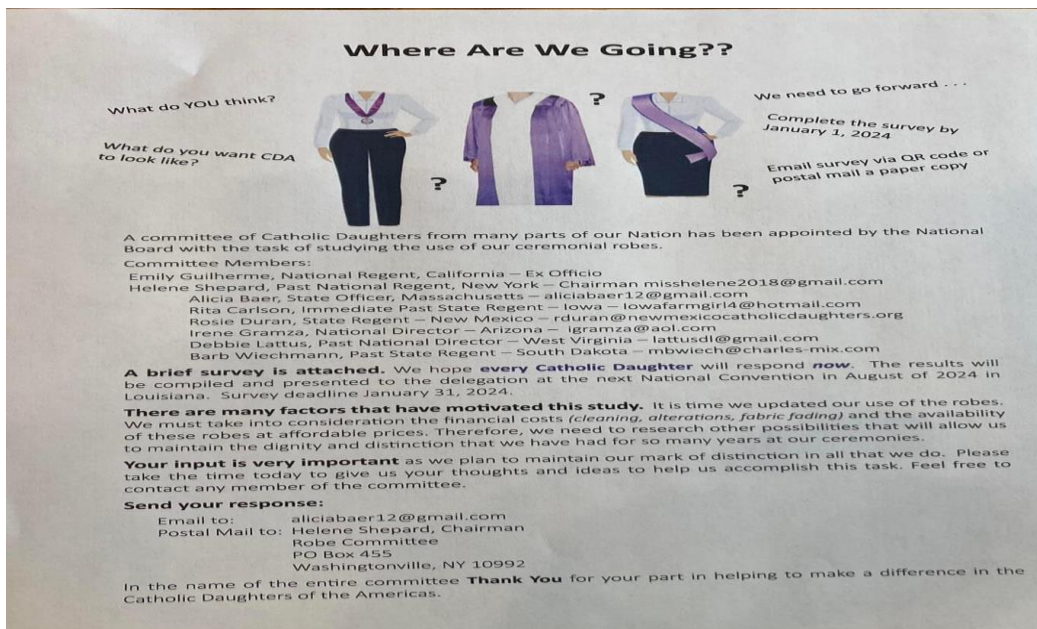


## NATIONAL ROBE SURVEY

Do not forget to complete the survey. We are all Catholic Daughters and represent the same organization. You may not be an officer now, but you may be one in the future and your response is requested. **PLEASE COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT SURVEY.**

**Note:** All responses (paper or electronic) must be submitted by individual members.

**The Survey is due by January 31, 2024.** The Survey will be in the next Share and Quarterly National Regent Emily Guilherme said, "A big Thank you to Past National Regent Helene Shepard, for accepting the Chairmanship of this committee after the passing of Past National Regent Joanne Tomassi. Thank you to Helene and your committee for your wonderful work."



[National Robe Survey \(office.com\)](#)

## NATIONAL ROBES SURVEY

Please complete the survey and submit your responses. The completed surveys must be returned by January 31, 2024.

To return by email, send to: [aliciabaer12@gmail.com](mailto:aliciabaer12@gmail.com)

To return by postal mail, send to: Helene Shepard, Chairman

P.O. Box 455, Washingtonville, NY 10992



# CALENDAR OF EVENT

## DECEMBER

- 3 Advent Begins
- 8 Feast of Immaculate Conception
- 12 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 25 Christmas

## JANUARY

- 1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God
- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 19 March for Life

## FEBRUARY

- 13 Shrove Tuesday
- 14 St. Valentine's Day
- 14 Ash Wednesday
- 18 JCDA Day
- 19 Presidents' Day

## MARCH

- 2 Read Across America
- 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 St. Joseph's Day
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 Holy Thursday
- 29 Good Friday
- 30 Holy Saturday
- 31 Easter

# UP-COMING COURT EVENTS

## **SAVE THE DATE: 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COURT ST. JOHN #2526**

When: Sunday, January 28, 2024  
Where: St. John Cathedral  
2814 Mariposa St., Fresno, CA 93721  
Time: 10:30 am Mass  
Celebrant: Bishop Joseph V. Brennan  
Luncheon: Freedom Elementary School  
2955 Gettysburg Ave., Clovis, CA 93611  
Cost: \$30 per person  
Checks payable to: CDA Court #2526  
Mail to 6213 N. Gilroy Ave., Fresno, CA 93722  
Deadline: 1/15/2024 – limited seating  
Contact: Charlene @ 559-495-5759

## **SAVE THE DATE: VALENTINE LUNCH & 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Host: Court our Lady of Good Success #1661  
When: February 10, 2024  
Where: Notre Dame Hall  
333 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Clovis, CA 93611  
Time: Doors open at 11:30 am  
Cost: \$25 per person  
Lunch: Chicken, Tri-tip, Rice Pilaf, Salad, Desserts  
Info: Text: Pam Rivera @ 559-977-3056 or Email: pamrivera26@gmail.com  
Door Prizes and Raffle – Fellowship, Food & Fun

## **SAVE THE DATE: 2024 STATE RETREAT**

When: May 24 – 26, 2024  
Where: St. Anthony Retreat Center, Three Rivers, CA – More information to follow

## **SAVE THE DATE: COURT COMPTON #942 CRUISE**

When: May 30 – June 4, 2024  
Where: Mexico  
Ship: New Carnival ship Firenze  
Depart: Long Beach, CA  
Deposit: \$150.00 per person to hold cabin – due by December 15, 2023  
Cost: Interior cabin - \$383.00 pp plus \$246.65 tax – Deck 6 & 7  
Balcony cabin - \$583.00 pp plus \$246.65 tax pp – Deck 6 & 7  
Deadline: Final payment due March 16, 2024  
Contact: Yvonne Iraldo @ 310-678-9389 or Ymiraldo@yahoo.com

## **SAVE THE DATE: JCDA SWEET RETREAT**

When: June 9 - 12, 2024  
Where: Embassy Suites by Hilton  
1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico  
Room rate: \$149.00 plus tax - 2 queen beds plus sofa sleeper  
Registration fee: \$199.00 per attendee  
Includes 2 dinners, 2 lunches and breakfasts

# FAREWELL TO LORETTA MARY RAASCH

## 1918 - 2023



### Obituary

Loretta Mary Raasch was born on September 5, 1918 in Walthill, Nebraska. She was the fifth of 8 children born to Claude and Ludvina Stewart. Loretta grew up as a devout Catholic. When Loretta was 18 years old, she was swept off her feet by Gene Raasch while she was walking home from school. The loving couple wed on December 29, 1936 and went on to live a remarkable 74 years of marriage until Gene passed on February 4, 2011. Loretta was a devoted and loving mother to her 5 children: Claudia (Chuck), Larry (June), Karen (Bill), Stuart (Sue) and last but not least Sandra (Arthur). Loretta was preceded in death by her husband of 74 years Gene, her son Larry, sons-in-law Bill and Arthur, and great grandsons Joshua and Brian.

Loretta was blessed with 30 grandchildren, 63 great grandchildren, 50 great-great grandchildren and 4 great-great-great grandchildren and she was proud of each and every one of them.

In 1941 Loretta and Gene left the dairy farm in Nebraska and moved to Sunny California with 3 young children in tow. She started working at Central Market in Los Angeles as a cashier and then moved on to be a bank teller in Bellflower California where she eventually retired from.

While Loretta was raising her 5 children and working, she found time to volunteer with the Bellflower chapter of Catholic Daughters of America where she was elected Grand Reagent more times than we can count. Loretta went on to help establish the Compton California chapter of Catholic Daughters of America. She enjoyed organizing bus trips to local casinos to raise funds for the Catholic Daughters. Some may know her as Loretta, some may know her as Mary, but everyone knows her as a friend. After Loretta and Gene retired, they spent their time volunteering at the Knights of Columbus in Bellflower and traveling across the country with their Airstream Club.

Loretta had a passionate heart and never met a stranger. She lived her life to the fullest for 105 years. Today we are celebrating her life and her love for family and those lives she has touched.

# FAREWELL TO ESTHER DOLORES GOW

## 1929 - 2023



We are very sad to share the news that one of our Beloved Past State Regents Ester Gow has passed away, Esther served as the CA State Regent from 2005-2007. Please keep Esther and her Family in your prayers.

### Obituary

Esther Dolores Gow was born on March 31, 1929, in New Mexico to Patricio Enrique and Antonia Frances Trujillo. The family later moved to Longmont, Colorado where she attended most of her schooling and then finally settled in Southern California. She and her father both worked at Douglas Aircraft where she met her future husband Gordon D. Gow. They were married on April 25, 1953, and welcomed their firstborn Donald in 1954, followed by Gordon 1955, Tracy 1957, Barbara 1959, and Louise 1966. She was blessed with six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was a devout Catholic and long-time member of the same parish, since its inception in 1953, St. Pancratius in Lakewood. Esther served on the Women's Parish Council for several years and she and Gordon were also very active in the Boy Scouts during their children's elementary school years. She became a member of Court Marian #1669 for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas holding many state levels including State Regent representing California courts at national functions. She remained active up until just a few years ago. She enjoyed overseeing and participating in charitable events both locally and nationally.

Esther is survived by sons Donald and Gordon (Debbie) and daughter Barbara (Greg). She was a loving grandmother to Michael, Ryan, Kevin, Nathan, Megan and Kaylee and great-grandchildren Keegan and Kailyn. She is also survived by her sister Mary Martha Joan Silva, as well as many nieces and nephews. She is preceded in death by her loving husband of 60 years Gordon, son Tracy, daughter Louise, parents Patricio and Frances Trujillo, siblings Mary Janet Silva, Benjamin, Helen Jane and Lucile Grace Trujillo, who she dearly missed. She was a strong and loving mother and consoler who cherished her entire family.

She will be remembered for her great smile and sense of humor as well as her loving care for her family, and the many strangers she befriended and aided through the Catholic Daughters.

A visitation service will take place on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Luyben Dilday Mortuary 5161 Arbor Road, Long Beach, CA. A burial will be held Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 1:30 PM at Riverside National Cemetery 22495 Van Buren Blvd., Riverside, CA.

# COURT ACTIVITIES

## THREE COURTS CELEBRATE

Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Memorial Day for our deceased Catholic Daughters: Courts San Luis Obispo #1162, La Purisima #1267, Santa Maria #1079 came together to honor our deceased Catholic Daughters. Afterwards, was a great time at Crumbles Restaurant for brunch.





## COURT COMPTON #942

On Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Court Compton #942 hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> free mammogram screening event for women without health insurance. It was a very successful event with 24 women screened. Court Compton members and JCDA members volunteered to greet, provide refreshments and assist with the application process. We had a blessed day! The ladies also had a chance to win the beautiful bouquet of flowers.

Big thank you to our mammogram screening organizers, Linda, Jackie and Patty.



Left to right: Patty Gutierrez, Karen Jones, Linda Davis, JCDA Bethany Wilson, Jacqueline Dunn, JCDA Beatriz Wilson, Regent Yvette Manard, Shirley Creighton, Deacon Alberto Reyes, Elana August. Front: Joan Braun

Also on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Albert the Great Parish, members from Court Compton #942 participated in a Spiritual Day of Reflection Retreat. The retreat's theme was "Why Pray?" The keynote speaker, Deacon Douglass Johnson spoke about the importance of praying and releasing yourself to be open to receive the word of God while praying.

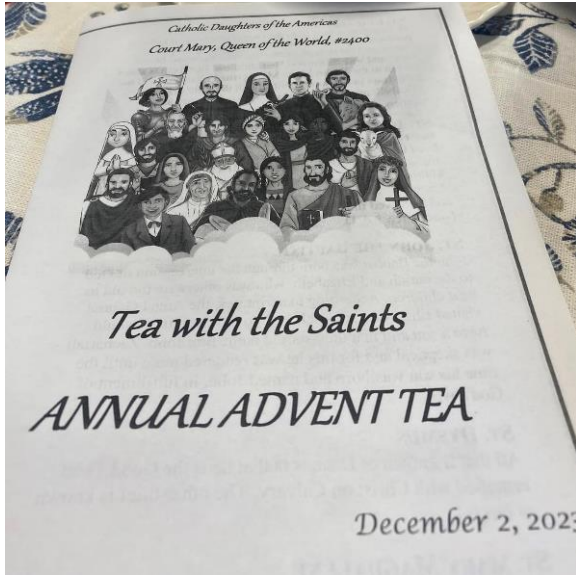
Caption for pictures:

Thank you to our Retreat Coordinator-Dee Walton Bell and CDA members, Bonita Carter and La Verne Russeau



# COURT MARY, QUEEN OF THE WORLD #2400

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, Court Mary, Queen of the World #2400 hosted their Annual Advent Tea at St. Felicitas Catholic School.



## COURT ST. CATHERINE #1378

12/2/23 at Nativity Annex. Catholic Daughters of Americas project to be donated to unfortunate and children who needed toys and blankets. Scarves and hats for women. They were handmade with love. Thank you Crocheting ladies, you made a difference . Special thanks to Tammi Trinh , our crochet instructor and all the dedicated women who made this possible.



# COURT IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY #2714

## Women Advent Tea



## COURT ST. JOHN #2526

On Sunday, December 3, 2023, Court St. John #2526 presented the “Annual Advent Retreat” to help start the new liturgical year with a powerful and awesome Advent Retreat. Catholic Daughters Court St. John #2526 Spiritual Advisor Vicente Garza and Spiritual Enhancement Chair Maria Rios-Garza enlighten our day with so much information about our Catholic faith and what Christmas is really about. We all knew that, but there was so much more to tell. Remember to Keep Christ in Christmas. MERRY CHRISTMAS!



# COURT SANTA BARBARA #293

Congratulations Court Santa Barbara #293 on 107 Years of Service.  
A Beautiful Mass and Celebration



## OUR LADY OF PEACE COURT #1306 – SAN BERNARDINO, CA

On Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> Catholic Daughters Court #1306, Our Lady of Peace in San Bernardino, California held our monthly meeting and swore in two new members, Maria Trujillo & Irene Bradley and renewed member Lovely Anglin. Afterwards we gathered to gift wrap candy packages for needy children. Each member contributed candy, wrapping paper, ribbon and supplies. We formed groups for placing assorted candies in plastic baggies and wrapped them into individual gift packages. It went so well that we prepared 300 gift packages. On Nov. 30 we delivered them by the deadline to Debra, Assistant to the Director of Santa Claus, Inc. in San Bernardino. Many children were delighted to receive some sweet treats and other gifts from Santa this Christmas.

HOPING YOU ALL HAD A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS



Pictured from Top left to right: Felita Nobleza, Rosalinda Ranas, Eva Garza, Debra of Santa Claus Inc., Pat Morlan, Frances Marquez.

Top right: Marge Peterson, Eva Garza, Maria Trujillo, Pat Morlan, Evelyn Rivera.

Bottom left to right: Inez Lanas, Irene Bradley, Janet Ochoa, Connie Rodriguez

Bottom right: Lupe Zavala, Rosalinda Ranas, Felita Nobleza, Rosemary Lane, Tony Felix.

# JCDA NEWS

From our National JCDA Chairman:

- 1) I would like to remind all JCDA Courts of the ongoing Photo Challenge. I have received pictures from a few courts but hoping to get many more pictures from many JCDA Courts. Attached is the information for your convenience. Please send in your pictures soon!
- 2) Also attached are details on the upcoming JCDA Sweet Retreat to be held in Albuquerque, NM on June 9 to June 12, 2024. Hope this gives everyone enough time to prepare and plan to attend the retreat.

National Catholic Daughters of the Americas® presents

## JCDA Sweet Retreat



Sunday, June 9, 2024 -  
Wednesday, June 12, 2024

Registration fee:  
\$199 per attendee  
Registration fee includes  
2 dinners, 2 lunches and breakfasts

Embassy Suites by Hilton  
1000 Woodward Place NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Room Rate \$149.00 plus tax  
2 queen beds plus sofa sleeper

Reservation Code will be released at a later date

In order to provide a safe place for all attendees, all adults must be compliant  
with Safe Environment policies in their Diocese.



If you have any questions or concerns about these events, please let me know.

Yvette Griego  
National Director  
1028 Diego Rd  
Santa Rosa, NM 88435  
575-799-5189

*"Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ." -Ephesians 4:32*



## WEBMASTER

Yvette Manard ~ [proactivepatient@verizon.net](mailto:proactivepatient@verizon.net)



# Your New State Website Is Under Construction!

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS**  
**CALIFORNIA STATE... 100 Years of Service**  
*73 Local Courts Serving in "Unity and Charity"*



Photo courtesy of Gunnar J Kuepper

We are working hard on producing an attractive and easy to use website. We ran into a few technical snags, but they have been worked out. Our new URL will be: **[californiacatholicdaughters.org](http://californiacatholicdaughters.org)**. We will direct browsers searching for the old URL (<http://catholicdaughterscalifornia.org/> ) to our new site.

The new website will provide information on the Catholic Daughters of the Americas on the National, CA State and local CA courts. It is our goal to regularly highlight activities and photos of our local courts.

The main menu will be easy to use with dropdown menus of appropriate information. The main menu includes Home-About Us- Local Courts- Junior Courts-Circle of Love- Releases & Newsletter- State Store and Contact. The easy to find dropdown menus will contain the relevant information.

We will keep you posted on the date we plan to go live. Merry Christmas to all my Sisters.

# “A GOOD IDEA TO THINK ABOUT THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON”

## CARDS FOR A CURE 2023

All it takes is a Christmas card, a prayer and one dollar to help make Christmas a little more special for a child with cancer.

This year's recipient is 16 year-old Jaxon Kohl (JK) Medley. He was recently diagnosed with Metastatic BCOR Sarcoma and has begun chemotherapy at Children's Hospital in Alabama.

The goal this year is to brighten Christmas with 3,500 cards. I invite my CDA sisters to take a moment to write a card, say a prayer, enclose just one dollar bill and mail to:

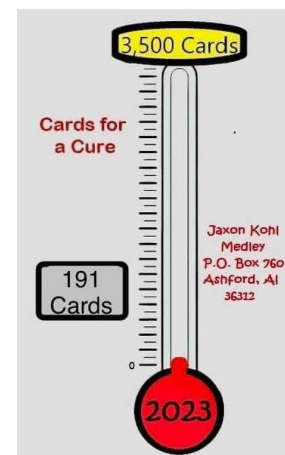
Jaxon Kohl Medley  
P.O. Box 760  
Ashford, Alabama 36312

You can follow the progress on Facebook under Cards for a Cure 2023.

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/1899356956914030/permalink/2419001744949546/?mibextid=Nif5oz>.

Thank you and God Bless.

Ingrid Humphrey, Facebook Coordinator  
CDA Court Compton



## GOLDEN STATE TIDINGS DUE DATES

**EDITOR ~ Karen Jones ~ [kdj4237308@gmail.com](mailto:kdj4237308@gmail.com)**



Share what your court is doing with your CDA Sisters. Send in Your Articles! Share with your Sisters! Your articles or updates can be sent either in email format with the text in the body of the email or as an attachment. **I WILL NOT SHORTEN your articles).**

*Karen Jones*

### **DUE DATE**

Sept-Fall 2023  
Dec-Winter 2023  
March-Spring 2024  
June-Summer 2024

### **SUBMISSION DATE**

submit between August 1-22, 2023  
submit between November 1-22, 2023  
submit between February 1-22, 2024  
submit between May 1-22, 2024

### **DUE DATE**

Sept-Fall 2024  
Dec-Winter 2024  
March-Spring 2025  
June-Summer 2025

### **SUBMISSION DATE:**

submit between August 1-22, 2024  
submit between November 1-22, 2024  
submit between February 1-22, 2025  
submit between May 1-22, 2025

“Faith as Small as a Mustard  
Seed can move Mountains.”  
Matt 17:20

