



COURT SANTA SOPHIA UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2010

Court Santa Sophia #2520 • Spring Valley, California

IN THIS ISSUE

- 53rd Biennial National Convention
- 2010 Officer Installation
- Corona Court Institution
- Moving Nativity Prep
- Proposed Revisions to Standing Rules
- Proposed Disbursement of Funds
- Name Our Newsletter!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas 53rd Biennial National Convention

By Pam Kay

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas 53rd Biennial National Convention held in Buffalo, New York was inspiring, humbling, exciting and a joy to attend. Our days were packed full of listening, discussions, decision making and spirituality. The potential delegates allowed attending and vote was 2,278, however 626 was the actual number

conduct business during the four days of meetings!

Our National Clergy Consultant

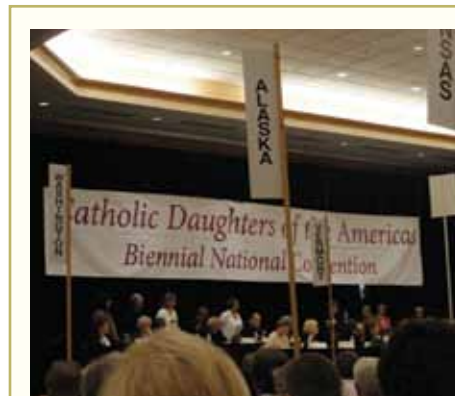
Father Donald Ruppert delivered a stirring keynote address that focused on the history of Catholic Daughters and its mission not to be a bible study or religious group, but to be a social group. We were known as the volunteer group that “got things done.”

Secondly, he covered

the evolution of the name of our organization beginning with “Daughters of Isabella,” to our current name, “Catholic Daughters of the Americas.”

His third point was to describe the

Continued on page 3



The 53rd Biennial National Convention Meeting at the Adam's Mark Hotel

of voting delegates present. Alternates, guests and members at large swelled the number in the convention meeting room to very close to 1,000 people. You can imagine the organization and leadership it took for our National Officers to

REGENT'S LETTER



I dropped off my daughter, Mya, at school on a Friday. We usually pack a lunch for her but that day, Mya wanted to purchase lunch instead. I went into the office to pre-pay and to my surprise, there was a long line of parents—at least 10—and more waiting outside the door. I thought, “Wow, a lot of kids had the

same last minute idea to buy lunch!” But in fact, they were all waiting at the computer kiosk to check in as volunteers. It was wonderful seeing that parents were so involved in their child’s education that they take a little time out of their day to help out. I felt good that my daughter attends a school where the volunteer parents and staff are key to the great success of the school.

I sometimes volunteer at Mya’s school about 45 minutes before school lets out. Even though my initial intent was to get a good parking spot and sit in an air-conditioned room, there was always something to do. I’ve corrected papers, collated and stapled assignments, cut out shapes, folded papers, fixed books...a lot of little things. There are usually 3-4 other

Continued on page 2

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Regent's Letter - continued from page 1
people there doing various projects as well. Before we know it, most of the jobs get done by the time the bell rings. It's very similar to the effort put forth when volunteering for CDA events and projects.

When you signed up to be part of the CDA, you signed up to support our charitable mission with your time and talents. Your volunteerism helps our organization succeed. At the June meeting, we shared our God-given talents. Some have a gift of organization, others are "worker bees," some are good at giving alternative solutions to a challenge.

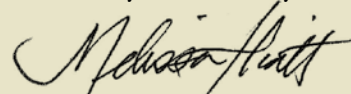
All of you are needed, no matter how small you think your participation is. We always say, "many hands make light work."

What can you do? I can't emphasize the importance of attending meetings and signing up to support our projects. At the August meeting we discussed what charities to support during the next two years, proposed how to disburse the court's funds to charity, reviewed Standing Rules—And it was all left in the hands of practically 25% of our members. If you want to make a difference, come to the meetings and let your voice be heard. Our next project is the "Junk From

Your Trunk" sale. Please consider being a co-chair or signing up to help.

What do you get in return? Spiritual satisfaction. Opportunities within CDA arise where your help is needed. Think of it as God giving you a tap on your shoulder. Have Him lead you and be his hands and feet during the journey and also know that you have a big support group who will lighten the load.

In Unity and Charity,



Melissa Hiatt, Regent

CDA Officer Installation



CDA State board, newly installed officers and members from courts throughout San Diego

On June 26, 2010, CDA courts in San Diego participated in the Installation of Officers at Santa Sophia Catholic Church. Our state officers and chairmen were present as well as our District Deputies. The mass was celebrated by Msgr. John Dickie. After the installation, a rosary was led by our State Officers. Families and friends joined in fellowship at a reception held in Prendergast hall with food provided by Court Teresa of Avila. State Officers were given "thank you" gifts and all guests received a rosary.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Two members took the CDA pledge at the June Meeting. Let's give a warm welcome to **Carmen Piscitelli and Angie Saenz!**

Moving Nativity Prep

A call for volunteers was sent to help Nativity Prep move to a facility located on the campus of Holy Spirit Catholic Church on August 21st. Pam Kay and Melissa Hiatt did some light moving during the week and Melinda Bauers along with her husband, Steve, joined Pam and her husband, Jerry, on August 21st to do more of the heavy lifting.

Court Santa Sophia teamed up with Court Holy Spirit to provide refreshments for all the volunteers. Workers were treated to pulled pork sandwiches, chips, cupcakes, Mexican rice and cold beverages.

Nativity Prep is a all-scholarship Catholic middle school for at-risk children. Their new location at Holy Spirit is a great increase size from their former facility in Logan Heights.



Members from Court Holy Spirit help set up beverages at Nativity Prep's new facility.



Top: CDA members voted for the National Board and the Bylaw amendments by holding up yellow "VOTE" cards.

Bottom: Members dressed in character for the Broadway-themed fun night.

53rd National Convention - continued from page 1
 support of Catholic Daughters for our military during war efforts. If you would like to see Fr. Ruppert and hear the talk, you can visit www.catholicdaughters.org and watch a video and feel like you were a member of the audience. I encourage you to look at it.

Reports were delivered by our National Chairmen and awards were announced. The exhibit room was open and merchandise was available for sale. Special state dinners were held in order for members to gather and socialize with others from their states. Special prayer services and liturgies were held daily to stir our spirituality. Time in the evening was set aside to meet candidates for office and mingle with other members from across the nation. I think the most important element of attending a National Convention is to witness our importance in the scheme of the organization at a level outside of our community and realize that by joining with others sharing our common goals we do *indeed* make a difference!

Proposed Revision to Our Standing Rules

Our Court's Standing Rules were created and adopted in October 2008. Since our Court has made leaps and bounds since then, it is time to revisit our Standing Rules and make revisions to add, amend or rescind items.

We started the discussion of the proposed Standing Rules at the August meeting and will finish voting on the proposal at the September meeting. Please see the included proposal for the latest proposed revision to the Standing Rules. Also included is our current Standing Rules, as of October 2008. Carefully compare both documents so that you may make an educated vote at our next meeting on September 23.

Please Pray For...

Lettie Reyes that her health may be quickly restored.

Irene Fortier, who left this world to be with the Lord in June.

Thank You...

To the volunteers at the KofC 4th Degree installation. Your planning and help made the event a success!

To those who participated in the rosary for Irene Fortier at her memorial in August and to those who donated salads for the reception.

To Melinda and Steve Bauers, and Pam and Jerry Kay for providing refreshments for volunteers at Nativity Prep Academy and helping to physically move items to the new facility.



NAME OUR NEWSLETTER!

"**Court Santa Sophia Update**" is a temporary name for our newsletter. Can you come up with a creative name for our newsletter? Let us hear your ideas! Email CDA2520@gmail.com with your idea by October 20. The winning name will win a CDA tote bag (pictured above)!

Showing Support for the New Court, St. Mary Magdalene of the Hearts #3626, in Corona, CA

By Melinda Bauers



Top: Newly installed officers of Court St. Mary Magdalene of the Hearts with Rev. Au, State Officers, National Director Emily Guilherme and State Chaplain Rev. Stephen Porter. Right: Regent Deborah Jenkins lights a candle during the officer installation.



On July 31st, 2010 I had the privilege of attending my first installation of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) in Corona at St. Mary Magdalene Church. The newly installed Court Mary Magdalene of the Hearts #3626 totaled about 26 Catholic Daughters was a breathtaking site to see. They had smiles on their faces and you could feel the joy and presence of the Lord. I don't know who was more excited, CDA members or Father Au as he challenged Court #3626 to increase their newly installed court too double by next year. I personally met some of the loveliest ladies that I would never have met if I did not take the opportunity to attend. Taking the opportunity to step out of our comfort zone is sometimes difficult or even challenging but the result will last a life time. If you can, I encourage all CDA members to take advantage of the opportunity to attend a newly installed court. Carpooling is an alternative to driving alone. I did, and the benefit was a great experience building old and new relationships.

Proposed Disbursement of Funds - Making a Difference Locally, in California and Throughout the Nation

CDA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. In order to keep our non-profit status, our funds (minus operation expenses) must be disbursed towards charity on a yearly basis. The following disbursements were proposed at the August meeting: \$1000- Santa Sophia Catholic Church, \$250-Little Flower Haven, \$250-Catholic Charities, \$100-Garden of Innocence, \$200-Interfaith Shelter, \$200-St. Vincent de Paul, \$250-Madonna Manor, \$780-National Projects (Smile Train, Disaster Fund, SOAR, Habitat for Humanity, Holy Cross Family Rosary). This proposal will be voted on at the September meeting.

What are these charities?

Santa Sophia Catholic Church is our backbone for our fundraising efforts.

In return, we give back to support the parish and help improve the place of spiritual growth for all.

Little Flower Haven is a non-profit assisted living community in La Mesa that is operated by the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus.

Catholic Charities supports those who are less fortunate with spiritual, human and financial resources so that they experience dignity and respect.

St. Vincent de Paul provides social services and shelter for the homeless.

Garden of Innocence provides dignified burials for abandoned and unidentified children.

Interfaith Shelter provides temporary lodging and meals for pre-screened individuals and families as they look for work.

The Madonna Manor, our State Project, is a retirement facility located

in Salinas, CA. It is open to all California CDA members.

Smile Train provides cleft-lip operations to children in throughout the world.

Disaster Fund provides monetary assistance to the diocese where a disaster has occurred.

Habitat for Humanity helps to build homes for economically disadvantaged people.

SOAR (Support Our Aging Religious) provides financial support for elderly and frail members of Catholic religious congregations.

Holy Cross Family Rosary encourages family prayer, especially the Rosary.

Your efforts to help our court raise funds allows us to contribute to these worthy causes. Thank you!

STATE NEWS



The Madonna Manor Fundraiser will be held on October 9, 2010. Court participation will help to make this a successful event. Along with purchasing tickets, Courts are asked to donate a basket or donate money to be used to create a basket for the drawing.

It is with great joy we announce that **Emily Guilherme**, immediate Past State Regent, was elected as a National Director at the National Convention. Congratulations, Emily!

On September 11, a new court was instituted in the Fresno Diocese. A ceremony was held at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church.

The following first year college scholarships were given, thanks to donations made by local courts to the California State Scholarship Fund:

- Morgan Aspelund**, \$750.00
sponsoring court Fr. Francisco de La Suen #1508
- Mickey Phelps**, \$750.00
sponsoring court Our Lady of Wisdom #2392
- Karlene Alves**, \$500.00
sponsoring court St. Rita #2610

NATIONAL NEWS



Joanne Tomassi, from St. Pete Beach, FL, was elected as our National Regent at the 53rd Biennial National Convention. Let us give our full support to her as she leads us for the next two years!

The National Board distributed \$206,000 among various charities at the National Convention. It is through the generosity and support of local and state courts that we can distribute large donations.

At the National Convention, a resolution was made that CDA courts hold activities, take collections of articles and offer support for the men and women of the Armed Forces, to let them know we appreciate the sacrifices they make to keep us safe and to keep freedom alive.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas National CDA Day will be observed on Sunday, October 17, 2010. The theme for this year is "For in Him, we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28) as we continue to pray for vocations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Chris Murphy is a Charter Member of Court Santa Sophia and has belonged since October, 2003. She is married to Larry and has two daughters, Theresa (and Billy) who have a 3 year old son, Eddie; and Melissa. Chris works as a Lab Assistant in the Sharp Memorial Bloodbank. She loves arts and crafts and has a degree in fine art, with an emphasis on graphic arts. Chris loves to travel, especially to Europe and enjoys taking cruises.

Chris especially enjoys activities such as the Lenten dinner when our organization works together and everyone is involved. Chris served Court Santa Sophia as the second Regent, serving from 2006 to 2008. She is currently the District Deputy for Court Teresa of Avila.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

9/23/10 at 7pm

General Meeting in the Verhoeven Room at Santa Sophia

We will be voting on the Standing Rules, Disbursement of Funds, and Court Budget.

OCTOBER

8/2/10 from 8am to 1pm

“Junk From Your Trunk” Sale

Volunteers are still needed please consider signing up to help

8/17/10 9:30 Mass

National CDA Day at Santa Sophia
Members, please arrive at 9:15 to line up at the back of the church. Officers, please wear your robes with white shoes and no earrings or other accessories.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas
Court Santa Sophia #2520
9800 San Juan Street
Spring Valley, CA 91977

Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principal of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.