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**MASSACHUSETTS STATE COURT
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS**

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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.

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER
November 24, 2009**

Dear Regents, Officers, Chairmen, District Deputies, Chaplains, Spiritual Advisor and Members:

Although I am preparing this letter with turkey preparation on my mind, we all know that for many, Thanksgiving transitions to the Christmas Season. However, I cherish the reflective days of Advent. A coworker gave me a copy of The Little Blue Book as he did last year. It is filled with daily reflections from November 29 to January 10. It made my day to receive it. My hope is that while Walmart vows to make Christmas cost less, we as Catholic Daughters remember that "Christmas" doesn't "cost" anything. As the mailbox is filled with requests for donations and collections at the office are many – all for very good causes – it reminds me that Catholic Daughters give like it's Christmas all year long. I shall not applaud you; we don't do it for grandstanding. I will say that I am most proud to be a part of our organization. May your days of Advent lead you to a joyous Christmas Day and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

STATE AND NATIONAL DUES

Court State and National dues have been billed and are payable upon receipt. You will recall that no vote of the court is needed for payment of these bills. If you have any questions, you may contact 2nd VSR, Judi Shooter at 978-774-4158 or jhobbs1@aol.com.

GAMBIT DRAWING-NOVEMBER 2009

Winners from the drawing as reported by 1st VSR Connie Pagan are as follows:

Shirley LeFave of Court Everett \$10
Patty Audet of Court Pope John Paul II \$10

Lorraine Walsh of Court Maplewood \$15
Dora DelGizzi of Court St. Clementine \$15
Larry Menard of North Adams, Mass \$25
Ct. Our Lady of the Presentation #1500 \$50

Thank you to all who support this effort to build our scholarship funds.

SILENT AUCTION REPORT

We are happy to report that the profit from the Silent Auction is \$3500. As a bonus, we will receive a \$1000 donation through the rental of the summer home of M. Joan McKenna. Presentation of ½ of the proceeds from this event will be presented to a representative of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, (LCWR) at the CDA Christmas Party on December 6th. The LCWR, as we've reported in previous communications, is working to combat Human Trafficking and we support this effort wholeheartedly. (Enclosed is a flyer on an upcoming informational event on the topic). Again thank you ladies for a fantastic group effort!

CHRISTMAS PARTY & TRAVELING QUILT

Immediate Past State Regent, Joyce Ann Fleming reports that this year's Christmas Party at Lombardo's will be the largest attendance in years. Party Planners will be ready to welcome you at 11:30 a.m. Fun raffles and entertainment will be matched with great food and mingling of friends old and new.

We also look forward to learning the recipient of the "Traveling Quilt". Thank you to Brenda McIntyre, Fundraising Chairperson, who has visited with many of you at your court meetings to sell tickets for this quilt. If you have not purchased a chance yet, I'm sure you'll have the opportunity at the Christmas Party. Profit from this raffle will be donated to the LCWR.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Massachusetts CDA will present a \$1000 grant for a single family home in Medway sponsored by Court St. Joseph, #1475, on Saturday, December 5th at 3 p.m. Congratulations to Regent Cindy Young and court members Teresa O'Brien and Jocelyn Lucier for their participation in seeing this effort through. Also thank you to Barbara Armstrong and Tisa Berset who have agreed to coordinate the Food Schedule for the entire project. Great team work ladies!

CIRCLE OF LOVE REPORTS 2009-2010

Enclosed are the local court Circle of Love Reporting Forms. Note that the reporting dates are from March 1, 2009 through February 28, 2010. Your prompt submittal to the State Chairman as indicated on the forms postmarked no later than March 1, 2010 is greatly appreciated. We will be discussing this reporting at our workshop in January. If you feel you have questions or need assistance be

sure to attend. You may also contact your District Deputy for help. If she doesn't know the answer to your questions, she will contact the State Board. State Chairmen Report Forms will go out to them under separate cover.

EDUCATION CONTEST 2010

Phyllis Surman, our State Education Contest Chairperson asked that you be reminded of the themes as mailed to Court Regents in September from our National Office. The themes are "The Joys of God Surround Us" and "The Joys Life Brings Through Others". Phyllis reminds you that submittals are due to the local court chairperson by February 15, 2010. Local courts must have submittals to Phyllis by March 15th. If you have any questions, please call Phyllis at 781-932-3323. Local courts may sponsor contestants through Grade 12 and these contestants do not have to be a relative of a Catholic Daughter. Adult contestants must be CDA members. Good Luck to all our contestants!

JANUARY WINTER CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP

Court St. Clementine will be hosting the Winter Conference/Workshop on Saturday, January 16, 2010, at the Parish Hall, St. Clement's Parish, Medford/Somerville. Directions are enclosed. The day will begin with coffee and registration from 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. The morning conference session will begin promptly at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. The afternoon workshop session will begin promptly at 1:00 p.m. There is a 4 p.m. Mass at St. Clement's for those wishing to attend.

The afternoon workshop will focus on job responsibilities for Court Officers, District Deputies and Chairmen. Those not holding an office or chairmanship are welcome to remain for an informational session; their attendance in the afternoon is optional. However, those holding such posts are urged to attend the entire day. The fee for the full day is \$17.50 per person. If a member wishes to attend the morning session only and **is not staying for lunch**, the fee is \$7.50. Please let 1st VSR Connie Pagan know by January 2nd. I suggest Regents discuss this at your December meeting to be prepared with the names of attendees for Connie. Remember that your 1st VSR asks that we all try to improve on our commitment to conferences in a more timely manner.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Your State Board encourages all members to consider attending the 2010 National Convention in Buffalo, NY. First order of business in 2010 is to look into bus rental options. I'd like to know approximately how many members are considering attending. If Regents could get an idea of this number between December and January, please call IPSR Joyce Ann Fleming and let her know. It doesn't have to be a firm commitment, just an idea. Also Regents, please be sure to copy and distribute pertinent information from the November Convention

packet to those of your members interested in attending. I would suggest that you make at least a couple and have them available at your next meeting.

JCDA

Many thanks to Brenda McIntyre who has accepted my request to serve as Chairperson of the Junior Court. Brenda has visited with the girls of Court St. Joan of Arc in Framingham. They are an enthusiastic group and I know we all will lend our support wherever possible. How wonderful it would be to begin another Junior court sometime soon. If you have any ideas on starting a JCD court, share them with Brenda.

I offer my daily prayers for the health of our members. Although I cannot call each sister with my personal get well wish, you are in my thoughts and prayers. We are linked by our caring and sharing. My own recuperation from recent laser surgery on my vocal cords is going well. I believe that God has given me the responsibility to lead Mass. CDA and God will give me the ability to do so.

Let us also remember those serving our country in the armed services. It seems more often than not these days, the flag outside my workplace is at half staff. God bless our soldiers and their families. May world peace someday be ours.

Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God – the rest will be given.

Blessed Mother Teresa

Blessings to you and yours in Unity and Charity...

Connie, Judi, Maureen, Mary Ann, Joyce, Father Kevin, Sister Anne and I,



Linda Coletti
State Regent

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength”.

“Love your neighbor as yourself” Mark 12:28-31

Massachusetts Catholic Daughters of the Americas