Dear Sisters-in-Christ, this is a summary of my Court Regent Report for the 2023 State Convention being held in Grand Junction. I want to begin by thanking my dear Sisters-in-Christ as we have grown immensely through the projects we have undertaken. Our Court primarily works in three Circle-of-Love areas – Family, Spirituality, and Quality of Life.

**Family:**

- **CarePortal** – Our Court continues to support the CarePortal program, which is an online platform that brings the needs of hurting children and families in Teller County to our attention and we help as needed. **Alzheimer’s/Dementia Classes** – Our Court teamed up with the Veteran’s Administration and provided classes for caretakers of people with dementia. **Prayer Squares for nursing homes** -- For our National theme, “Let all you do be done with love”, our Court focused on the residents of three nursing homes in Teller County and members made over 150 prayer squares which were delivered to residents. Baskets of candy “Life-Savers” were placed in the lounges for all the staff who care for the residents.

**Spirituality:**

- **May Crowning of our Blessed Mother Mary** -- Both in 2022 and 2023, CDA members, along with parishioners, were involved in the Crowning of Mary ceremony held at Our Lady of the Woods church during Mass. Special prayers were read while Mary was crowned with a wreath of flowers and each member laid a rose at Mary’s feet while singing in her honor. **Rosaries** -- The Spirituality team oversees the making of rosaries for guests who attend church. For the “One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies”, members prayed 174 rosaries.

**Quality of Life:**

- **Giving Tree** – The Giving Tree Ministry has been in existence for a number of years in our parish and in 2020 our Court became the main coordinator. In 2021, 400 hundred gifts were delivered to families throughout Teller County. In 2022, over 500 gifts were provided from our church. **Sign Language Classes** – In November 2022, we provided sign language classes to help enhance communication with a long-time parishioner and Knights of Columbus member with throat cancer. A CDA member from Security, Anna Rockhill, who is the daughter of our Vice Regent, Savina Vejil, taught the classes. **One Nation Walking Together** - Twice a year, we organize a food/clothing drive and give a monetary donation to ONWT, which helps the lives of Native Americans in Colorado and surrounding states. **W.R.A.P.** – In October 2021 and 2022, members of the Court passed out white ribbons and information to parishioners in CDA’s fight against pornography.

**OTHER EVENTS**

- **Clergy Appreciation** – On June 17, CDA and the Knights of Columbus will recognize Father Marek Krol, Deacon Dave Illingworth and Deacon Mark Thuli with an appreciation meal. **Family & Friends Fun Day** -- we hosted the Family & Friends Fun Day in 2021 & 2022 and are now having **Brunches** for a new fundraiser.

Blessings to you, Melissa Mellen, Regent
Message from the Editor

Dear Ladies of Court Our Lady of Peace,

Where have the past 5 months gone? Summer is coming (although we just had a snow storm in the middle of May) and plans are underway to honor our clergy. Also, our Circle of Love teams are working hard on some new ideas for this year. Recently, we added the Sunday Brunch to our fund raising efforts at the church and our wonderful members are really stepping up to plan and execute these new ideas.

As our National Representative Essie Walker has said -- membership in the Catholic Daughters must be a priority. We have been so fortunate that we have gained 10 new members since the 2021 State Convention, but we need to continue our efforts to "toot our own horn" in an effort to increase our numbers even more. Remember, EVERY MEMBER IS ON THE MEMBERSHIP TEAM!

I wish all of you were going to be attending the State Convention in Grand Junction this June -- the experience of seeing ladies from all over Colorado and making new life-long friends is wonderful. Please keep all those traveling to convention in your prayers for a safe journey.

Have a beautiful SUMMER!! Evelyn Irving, Newsletter Editor

Ministry Updates

Family -- Lorraine Pluemer let us know that their committee is working on new ideas, but nothing is confirmed yet.

Spirituality -- Fran Brown reported that their team will be getting together to make Rosaries and they are also discussing the possibility of a Retreat.

Quality of Life -- Brenda Sambo reported that our Quality of Life Committee is working with the Right to Life Group at Our Lady of the Woods on the details for our "Baby Shower" to take place in September. We will support "Choices" in Woodland Park as well as the under-construction "Mater Filus" facility in Colorado Springs.

Pro-Life -- Kelly Lautzenheiser submitted our "One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies" Registration Form to the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization. She announced our 174 Rosaries as part of the May 5, 6 & 7, 2023 "One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies" prayerful event. Kelly also made us aware of Respect Life opportunities: (1) The Pro-Life Ministry in Colorado Springs hosted a speaker who also spoke at the Bishop's Respect Life Dinner; and (2) There is a 2023 "Walk for Life" support Life Network and Kelly is participating. We can help her raise $1,000 for the cause.

Leadership -- Evelyn Irving will be presenting a Mini-Workshop or an information class about Catholic Daughters -- all three levels (National, State, and Local) as well as the Circle of Love. We are waiting to get on the calendar of the church in order to schedule it. All are welcome. I believe Melissa Mellen is looking at a Monday in June to get on the calendar of the church.
One Nation Walking Together - May 6, 2023

Our Court once again went to our communities for a Food Drive for ONE NATION WALKING TOGETHER. "This was a day of working together for the good of others" says chairman Emily Pappadakis. Emily wants to tell you how much she appreciated all the volunteers working at both City Market in Woodland Park and at the Divide Market. Manny and Savina Vejil will accompany Emily to deliver all the food collected, plus cash donations, ($400.00) to the One Nation Walking Together warehouse in Colorado Springs. Here are some pictures.

May Crowning - May 7, 2023

To honor our Blessed Mother in the Month of May, Court Our Lady of Peace recited a Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, attended Mass together at Our Lady of the Woods Parish, and placed Roses at the feet of our Blessed Mother's statue. Marcella Sullivan and Emily Pappadakis had the honor of placing a crown of flowers on Mary's statue while Chairman Fran Brown led our members in singing "Immaculate Mary". At the conclusion of the Devoition to Mary, we all sang "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman"

News from Our Pope

The Pope's intention for March: For Victims of Abuse -- We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

The Pope's intention for April: For a culture of peace and non-violence -- We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by states and citizens.

The Pope's intention for May: For Church movements and groups -- We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.
State News

Our State Board has worked very hard to make this upcoming 49th Biennial Colorado State Convention a great experience for everyone, as well as a lot of fun too! Linda Peck, our State Regent, is striving to accomplish the goals of our late State Regent, Barbara Barnes, by making the "CDA courts in Colorado more spiritual and prayerful, working together for the glory of God."

At a recent meeting, the court voted to pay $1,000 for convention - which includes the Registration Fees for our Delegates and Alternates. All other fees (room, meals, transportation) are to be paid on our own.

What to wear: On Friday, the attire is red, white and blue in honor of our military and first responders. For Friday evening, the western dinner, you can wear western clothing or you can keep on your Friday clothes -- "just be comfortable" says State Regent Linda Peck. On Saturday, please wear your purple or gold. NO JEANS OR SHORTS. For Saturday night, the Banquet, please wear something a bit dressy (does not have to be formal).

The Opening Mass and ceremony will be at 1:00 pm on Friday, June 9, 2023 at the Doubletree Hotel, Grand Junction, in the Columbine/Bookcliff Room.

National News

I am sure that every National Officer and Director has been very busy traveling in the month of April -- that is when all the courts in the US have their state conventions. Colorado is the exception to the rule as our weather causes our mountain passes to be still covered in snow. I am writing this article on Thursday, May 11th and I have about 12 inches of snow right outside my window and it is still snowing. That is Spring in the Rockies for you! (Evelyn Irving, Newsletter Editor)

After the Colorado State Convention and the election of our new state officers, National will have its State and Territorial Officers Workshop from July 20 - 23, 2023 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona.

The 2024 60th Biennial National Convention is set for August 14 - 18, 2024 at the Riverside Hilton Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

There was a Special Note regarding the SHARE Magazine in the National Quarterly dated March 2023: "Beginning in 2023, your State and Local Court Chaplains or local parish will be mailed a copy of the SHARE Magazine. All courts will be billed $7.00 a year. This cost will be added to the court's insurance bill. You do not need to send the $7.00 separately."

Welcome Our New Member - Kristin Keane

We welcome our newest member KRISTIN KEANE, who was installed at our April 10, 2023 meeting. Kristin was volunteering with our members even before she officially became a member. Thank you Kristin and welcome to the Catholic Daughters.
Message from DEACON DAVE ILLINGWORTH

Dear Sisters in Christ,

In Matthew’s Gospel chapter 9, which is the Gospel for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we read:

> At the sight of the crowds, Jesus’ heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.”

I bring up this Gospel for two reasons. First, God willing, I will be the homilist that weekend so I have been reflecting and praying about this Gospel. And second, you and I live in a small community, with lots of stuff going on that demands our deeper understanding of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Forgive me if you must hear some of this twice: In this article now and later when I preach. This section of the Gospel is the very end of chapter 9 and the very beginning of chapter 10. Chapter 10 is referred to as the “missionary discourse”. In it, Jesus sets up the mission of his original disciples and ours too.

In typical fashion, and appropriate for his day, Jesus uses an agricultural metaphor for explaining to his disciples what they must do. Here are some key points for you and I to consider and reflect on:

- God is the ultimate Shepherd; we are not above Him.
- Jesus has pity for the lost sheep (read people).
- Jesus is sending out disciples to care for them (including you and I).
- There is a lot of work to be done.

You and I received a share in that mission when we were baptized. If you were baptized as an infant like I was, you might not remember that we were sent. What were we sent to do? We were sent to bring the message (Gospel) of Jesus Christ to all the earth. As St. Teresa of Calcutta would explain, that starts at home and with our neighbors. That is the “harvest is abundant” part.

You and I cannot live in Teller county without being aware of the many political battles taking place in our community. In Woodland Park, for example, there is political discourse and conflicts surround our schools. I bring this up as a vivid and very relative example. One of many examples where we are called to spread the Gospel.

As disciples, we are called on to understand Jesus’ message and then share it with our families and neighbors. As Catholics, we are called on to live out our faith in the “public square”. In other words, our faith is not meant to be a private thing, between me and God. Rather, Christ tells us that the harvest is abundant and the laborers are few. He tells us this, immediately after he is moved with pity for his lost sheep. Meaning, he wants us to help him shepherd the lost.

We are meant to be his shepherds in the streets -- not shepherding with a message of our own, but firmly and obediently with the message of Jesus Christ.

To do this, we must study and pray. At the end of Mass, your deacon sends you forth with the dismissal of, “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life”. That is, you and I being sent into the world to be disciples. May I humbly suggest that we spend some time in prayer reflecting on those nine words and what they tell us to do and how to act.
COURT NEWS

PRIEST & CLERGY APPRECIATION DINNER
Our Priest and Deacon Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023, following the 4:30 pm Mass at Our Lady of the Woods Parish. Flocknote invitations will be sent out to all our members, and their spouses, as well as to the Knights of Columbus, and their spouses by May 24, 2023. Special invitations will be sent to Father Marek Krol, Deacon Dave Illingworth and his wife Anita, as well as Deacon Mark Thuli and his wife Karen. We are asking for everyone to RSVP by June 1, 2023.

The Priest/Clergy Appreciation Dinner Committee met on April 19, 2023 to plan our dinner to honor Father Marek and our Deacons. This year, Father was asked what kind of food he would enjoy and his reply was to have a Charcuterie Board and French Onion Soup. We will be getting the Charcuterie Board and a salad from Mountainara Restaurant and Brenda Sambo has volunteered to make the French Onion Soup. The dessert will come from our members.

BRUNCH -- April 30, 2023
The Catholic Daughters had their second Brunch fund raiser after Mass on Sunday, April 30, 2023. Almost every member of Court Our Lady of Peace contributed in some way (food, serving, clean up, etc.) and we served ham and eggs with hashbrown potatoes, biscuits, fruit and orange juice. We brought in $311, which is fantastic!

HELP FOR A PARISH MINISTRY
At our April 11, 2023 meeting, we learned that the Young Mom's Music Group was raising money for camp supplies. To help with this fundraising, our court voted to host a Brunch on July 23, 2023 to support the Young Mom's Music Group.

UPDATE ON THE 2023 GIVING TREE PROGRAM
Since our community had so many needs in 2022, this year our Giving Tree Committee is looking to continue serving all the needy by joining forces with other churches in Teller County. We invited them to participate in the Christmas Giving Tree Program as our committee sent out letters to these other churches and invited them to a meeting at the Woodland Park Library on June 22, 2023. Their RSVP response deadline is set for June 1, 2023. It is hoped to divide each of the participating agencies among all churches, including Our Lady of the Woods and St. Peter Chapel. Our Committee consists of Kathy Lockwood, Irene Demers and Kathie Boucher, along with Chairman Linda Jensen.
"I SAID A PRAYER FOR YOU TODAY"

I said a prayer for you today and know God must have heard
I felt the answer in my heart although He spoke no word!
I didn’t ask for wealth or fame (I knew you wouldn’t mind)
I asked Him to send treasures of a far more lasting kind!
I asked that He’d be near you at the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings and friends
to share your way!
I asked for happiness for you in all things great and small
But it was for His loving care I prayed for most of all!

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our family and friends who have passed away recently, especially Kevin Albert, husband of Lynn Albert, who died 5/2/23.

Please pray for Jan McKay; Bev Jopek; Lorraine Pluemer; and Bess, Phil, Wayne, & Drake Cauley.

Let’s always keep in our prayers all Catholic Daughters, parishioners of Our Lady of the Woods, St. Peter Chapel and all family and friends who are in need of our prayers.

Our Next Meetings

We meet at Our Lady of the Woods on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm on the lower level of the old church building. Our June meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13th at 6:00 pm. Our next meeting won’t take place until August as, per our Standing Rules, we do not meet in the month of July. The August meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8th at 6:00 pm and the September meeting is set for Tuesday, September 12th at 6:00 pm. Please come early at 5:45 pm for refreshments and to "catch up" with your fellow Catholic Daughters! If you bring a guest to our meetings, then please come at 5:45 pm to meet us and get acquainted.

Website Information

Colorado State Board Website
To learn more about what is going on at the state level, please visit: catholicdaughterscolorado.org. There is also a link to the National Board’s website on the Colorado state website or you can go directly to National at catholicdaughters.org.