



**FIRST CALL
2025
CA CDA
50th
Biennial State
Convention
April 24-27, 2025
Visalia, CA**



*CA CDA
Shining in the Light
of the
Divine Mercy*



More Information to Follow

To: State Chaplain
National Regent
National Representative
State Officers
Past State Regents
State Chairmen
Special Assignments
District Deputies
Court Regents

Re: Biennial California State Convention

From: CA State Regent Maria Santos-Silva

I am pleased to issue this first call to the 2025 50th Biennial CA State Convention.

Date: April 24, 2025 – April 27, 2025

Place: Wyndham Hotel, Visalia, CA - California's Central Valley

Theme: "CA CDA Shining in the Light of the Divine Mercy"

The convention promises to be informative and productive. The convention chairman, Jennifer Campbell, will mail a detailed convention packet containing registration and meal forms, hotel information, and specifics about convention activities. The packet also contains important information about the hotel, volunteers, bylaw amendments, resolutions, and other general information about the convention activities and preparations.

Hotel Information: The Wyndham Hotel in Visalia specializes in services specially designed for business travelers, golfers, shoppers, and vacationers. Spend a day on the golf course, take the kids to a theme park, or enjoy an evening at any one of the area's world-class entertainment venues. The Wyndham is conveniently situated between Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park, close to Adventure Park Visalia, and within easy reach of Fresno Yosemite International Airport (FAT). Reservations can be made starting today by calling (559) 651-5000. Make sure to mention that you are with the California Catholic Daughters of the Americas CA State Convention to receive the CDA room rate of \$112 per night (This rate includes tax) plus a room deposit of \$100. The block contains both a single or double room. Please state the **CA CDA Convention** when making your reservations. Parking is free at this location. Please refer to the link below:

The link to reserve rooms:

https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham/visalia-california/wyndham-visalia/rooms-rates?brand_id=HR&checkInDate=4/22/2025&checkOutDate=4/26/2025&useWRPoints=false&children=0&groupCode=042225CAT&adults=1&rooms=1&loc=ChJKYfr04LYIIARDkgLAe7jklU&sessionId=1729704850

Attendance: All CDA members are invited and encouraged to attend the state convention. In addition to delegate seating, there will be areas for non-delegates to observe convention proceedings and workshops that are open to all registered members. Spouses and guests are invited to attend all liturgies and convention activities except the business meeting. The CA CDA State Board is hosting a Clergy Room during the Convention. This will be a set space for Clergy and Court Spiritual Advisors to meet and collaborate. The CA State Board has also provided an indoor Terrace Area to be available for all CDA attending the convention to relax, work visit, and network during their time at the convention. Please make sure your court and members are in good standing.

Opening Mass: The opening Mass will be held at St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Visalia, CA, on April 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM. All clergy in attendance are invited to concelebrate all convention Masses. Court chaplains should bring their albs and stoles and submit their certificate of good standing from the Bishop to our National Chaplain, FR. Erick Villa, please see the attached Clergy Registration Form. Please see attached.

Procession: National and state officers, district deputies, and all court officers will assemble at the Church to begin the opening procession promptly at 9:15 am. Past State Regents and State Chairmen wearing white are invited to participate in the procession. The procession will be in reverse order. The Opening Mass is one of the convention's most beautiful and impressive events, so all officers are requested to observe proper protocol. Nothing is carried in the procession, including purses, cameras, or bags. We await further direction from the National Board on the New Dress Code for Officers and will notify all CA CDA members as soon as that information becomes available. If the CDA Officer Medallions are ready, Father Erick Villa will bless all of the CA Courts Medallions during this very special Mass. A private tour for all CDAs of this beautiful church will be held immediately following Mass.

Delegates/Alternates: Each court Regent will receive a delegate sheet along with instructions for electing the number of delegates and alternates to which the court is entitled from the National Office. If a Regent does not receive this packet by February 1st, she should contact the National Office immediately. Courts must **ELECT** delegates to the convention in time to send the delegate list to the State Regent by **March 1, 2025**. Please read the National Convention Mailing carefully to ensure that your court has the proper representation at the state convention. Courts must be in good standing, Financial Reviews complete, and dues paid.

Remember, delegates and alternates are elected, not appointed. It is wise to elect all the delegates and alternates to which your court is entitled, even if it appears that they cannot attend the convention. Sometimes delegates can attend after all. Courts instituted after September 30, 2024, will be entitled to send only the regent or her alternate as a delegate to the convention. No delegate sheets will be accepted after March 1, 2025. Courts are allowed one (1) delegate, the Regent if she attends, and an additional delegate for every twenty-five members or major fraction thereof. Expenses to the state convention may be paid by the court.

Credentials: Credential statements for all delegates and alternates will be included on the registration forms and mailed to court Regents. Delegates must have their credentials to vote.

Dues/Assessments: All state and national dues and assessments must be paid for a court to have delegates seated at the convention. If you have any questions regarding your state or national assessments, please contact Arlene at the National Office at arlene@catholicdaughters.org or Sheri Kanagawa, the CA Second Vice Regent, as soon as possible.

Bylaw Amendments: Local courts may submit proposed amendments to the CDA Bylaws. Any proposed bylaw amendments approved at the state convention must be sent to the national committee for final presentation at the 2026 National Convention. Local courts must vote on a proposed bylaw amendment at a local court meeting. Submit proposed bylaw amendments to State Regent Maria Santos-Silva and the State Bylaw Chairman by February 1, 2025. The State Bylaw Chairman is CA State First Vice Regent Lorine Bakowsky.

Resolutions: Local courts may submit proposed resolutions. Any resolutions passed at the state convention that do not pertain solely to the state of CA will also be sent to the chairman of the National Resolutions Committee for consideration. Resolutions proposed by a local court must be approved by a vote of the members at a regular meeting and sent to State Regent Maria Santos-Silva and the State Resolutions Chairman by **February 1, 2025**. The State Resolutions Chairperson is CA CDA Second Vice Regent: Sheri Kanagawa.

Clergy/Men's Retreat: All court chaplains and men attending the convention are invited to the Clergy/Men's Retreat. The Retreat will take place on Friday, April 25, 2025, led by National CDA Chaplain Father Erick Villa. Father Erick will take the Men/Clergy to the St. Anthony Retreat Center in Three Rivers, located just outside Sequoia National Park. Shuttle service will be included in the cost of this event. A flyer with retreat information and more information regarding the cost will follow in the next call.

Memorial Mass for Deceased Members: The Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Friday Morning of the Convention. Please provide your list of deceased members by March 30, 2025, to State Regent Maria Santos-Silva at MSantosSilvaCACDA@Gmail.com

CDA "RED" Friday, "Remember Everyone Deployed": On Friday, April 25th, during the business session of our Convention, we will recognize with a parade and display of flags representing all branches of the Armed Services and First Responders. Please look for more information regarding this special ceremony in the next call.

Parade of Banners: Before the Friday Night Dinner, we will hold a Parade of Court Banners. Please bring your Court Banner, Standard Pole, and Quality Court Award Ribbon. Those flying will have an alternate method of display.

Fundraising: At this convention, we will have the state raffle baskets. Please consider donating prizes and participating in all the "**FUNdraising**" at the convention. You will have a great time, and you may win some great prizes! At the same time, you will help ensure that the state has the funds to run efficiently and effectively in the future without having to do extra fundraisers. If you need more information, please contact CA State First Vice Regent Lorine Bakowsky for more information.

Candidates for State Office: Anyone wishing to be considered as a candidate for a State Office by the nominating committee must submit her name and the office in which she is seeking prior to February 1, 2025. This means the packet must be postmarked no later than January 31, 2025. All positions are open for nomination. Candidates must submit five (5) copies of each of the following: a statement of qualifications, a statement of endorsement from your local court signed by a majority of the officers, a current picture, and a signed consent to serve statement. Mail (not email) all packets to the Nominating Committee Chairman: Bonita Carter.

Bonita Carter
2025 CA CDA Nominating Committee Chairman
1021 West 136th Street
Compton, CA 90222
(213) 507-7362

Volunteers: The more the merrier! Extra volunteers are always needed, and you can assist with any event. The volunteer chairman will have a master list of volunteer opportunities. Please see the attached Volunteer Sign-up Sheet. Please return your Volunteer Forms to CA State Regent: Maria Santos-Silva.

Contests/Awards: Courts will receive Circle of Love Forms in the Fall National Quarterly. All contest deadlines are listed on the State Webpage. State Chairmen will announce first, second, and third-place winners in all categories during the convention.

Reports of State Chairmen: All state officers and state chairmen are asked to submit a one-page report highlighting their activities for the past two years. Reports must be received by the State Regent by March 31, 2025. Reports will be included in the Convention Program Book. Reports must be "camera-ready."

State Projects: If you have not contributed to the state projects, please do so as soon as possible. Representatives from some of our state charities will attend the convention, and monies collected from the courts will be presented at that time.

Forum: At the state convention, all registered attendees will be presented with an open discussion forum. The Forum will be held on Thursday night (time to be determined). Because of space requirements, we are asking all members to RSVP. More information will be provided in future calls.

CDA Information Forum

Social Media Do's & Do Not's	State Regent: Maria Santos-Silva
Court Goal Setting and Summer Planning	State Leadership Chairman: Ismaela Muniz Heide
New Official Dress Protocols Quality Court Awards	State First Vice Regent: Lorine Bakowsky
Parliamentary procedure and CDA Follow Standing Rules and Bylaws	Parliamentarian: Laura Vaca

Liturgies: All clergy in attendance are invited to concelebrate the liturgies and are asked to bring their own vestments. Clergy must also secure the proper permissions to concelebrate as their diocese requires. We will wear all white for concelebration priests and serving deacons. Priests hearing confessions should bring their own stoles.

Chapel Flowers: Please refer to the attached flyer for more information on how courts or individual court members can honor or memorialize those who are special to them with a floral bouquet donation. The floral displays will be used to decorate the Main Chapel, Meeting Room Chapel, Meeting Room, Priest Clergy Room, and Altars for Masses. All the bouquets will have the names of those they honor or memorialize on a card affixed to the display.

Celebration of Convention Masses and Spiritual Times:

Mary's Way of the Cross: Wednesday, April 23, 2025. Plaza Park. Please plan to join us for our CA CDA 50th Biennial "CDA Picnic. Your CA CDA State Board hosts this FREE event for CDA members and convention attendees. We will celebrate "Mary's Way of the Cross" at Sunset by the park's pond during the picnic.

Opening Mass: The opening Mass will be held at St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Visalia, CA, on April 24, 2025, at 10:00 AM. All clergy in attendance are invited to concelebrate all convention Masses. Court chaplains should bring their albs and stoles and submit their certificate of good standing from the bishop to our State Chaplain, FR. Erick Villa, please see the attached Clergy Registration Form.

Daily Divine Mercy Chaplets and Rosary: Join us in the morning and at night each day of the convention in the Main Chapel at our Convention. More detailed information to follow.

Memorial Mass: This will be celebrated on the morning of Friday, April 25th, on-site at the Wyndham. More information will follow.

Installation Mass: This mass will be celebrated on the afternoon of Saturday, April 26th, on-site at the Wyndham. More information will follow.

Confessions: A schedule for Confessions will be sent out closer to the convention. During the convention, the main chapel will have quiet, private, and confidential spaces for confessions.

Convention Tours: A local tour will be offered before the convention. More information will be published in the Official Call to Convention. Please plan to join us on Wednesday prior to the convention to participate in the tour and enjoy the CA CDA Picnic.

Tentative Convention Agenda: The registration and information packet mailed to you during the January convention Call will include a tentative convention agenda.

Committee members are expending a great deal of time, effort, and energy to ensure that you will have a wonderful and productive time at the CA State 50th Biennial Convention. This is the time for you to renew old friendships and make new CDA friends. It is also the time to celebrate the gift of sisterhood. I sincerely hope that all courts will do their best to ensure their delegates and as many members as possible attend the convention to vote, learn, and take back and share what they've experienced with the rest of the court's membership.

May you have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season and a joyful New Year! April is not that far away, and it will be here before you know it. So, mark your calendars. All roads will lead to the Central Valley in just 6 short months.

In Unity and Charity.

Maria Santos-Silva

Maria Santos-Silva
CA State Regent

Attachments:
Clergy Information Form
Volunteer Sheet
Flower Ordering Information



*"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*



Catholic Daughters of the Americas
50th Biennial CA State Convention
The Wyndham, Visalia/ 9000 W Airport Dr, Visalia, CA 93277/
April 24 - 27, 2025



CLERGY/CHAPLAIN/SPIRITUAL ADVISOR REGISTRATION FORM

Check here if this is your first State Convention.

Court Number _____ Court Name _____

NAME (Last) _____ (First) _____

ID Tag Name _____
(First Name, Last Name or Nickname, i.e., Fr. Doug or Sr. McKay or Deacon Tony)

ADDRESS _____
Number and Street City State Zip

PHONE (Mobile) _____ (Office) _____

EMAIL _____
(must be provided for confirmation that registration was received)

Please send a Letter of Suitability from your Bishop to:

THE OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

Deacon Mark Schultz
Chancellor Diocese of Fresno
1550 North Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93703-3711

Please check the date(s) you will be attending and are available to concelebrate/serve:

- April 25, 10AM (Opening Mass; held at St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Visalia, CA),
 April 26, 8AM (Daily Mass; Wyndham Visalia)
 April 27, 5:30PM (New Officers' Installation Mass; Wyndham Visalia)

Are you willing to hear Confessions in the Chapel at the Wyndham Visalia?

If so, identify time(s) available:

- 2PM - 3PM 3PM - 4PM 4PM - 5PM

Priests and Deacons, please bring your alb and white stole. Thank you!

KINDLY MAIL THE ORIGINAL FORM TO:

Father Erick Villa (CDA National Chaplain)
11555 Shannon Avenue, Dublin, CA 94568



**CONVENTION VOLUNTEER FORM CATHOLIC
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS
50th BIENNIAL CA STATE CONVENTION
April 23-27, 2025 | Wyndham Visalia**



The success of the California State Convention depends on the support of all CA CDA members.

Volunteer Opportunities

Please select one or more from the list below

<input type="checkbox"/>	State Store	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clergy Room
<input type="checkbox"/>	Convention Bags	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mass Lectors
<input type="checkbox"/>	Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mass Eucharistic Ministers
<input type="checkbox"/>	Credentials	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social Media, Posts/Livestream
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elections Vote Counter	<input type="checkbox"/>	Banquet Room Assistance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meal Tickets	<input type="checkbox"/>	General Support
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fundraising (Raffle Baskets)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Information Table
<input type="checkbox"/>	Main Chapel Help	<input type="checkbox"/>	Post Convention Cleanup
<input type="checkbox"/>	Choir	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Are you planning on being a delegate or alternate for your court?</i>

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Court Name & No.: _____

We are excited to hear from each of you and will be contacting you with details (dates & times) based on your volunteer interests.

Please email this form to:
CA State Regent Maria Santos-Silva: MSantosSilvaCACDA@gmail.com

Thank you for volunteering!

CA CDA State Convention Chapel Flowers

The CA CDA State Board has worked on a Very Special Opportunity for Local Courts or Individual Court Members to Honor or Memorialize those who are Special to them.

Working with a local florist, a floral bouquet is available for purchase to help decorate the CA CDA 50th Biennial State Convention. All the bouquets will have the names of those they Honor or Memorialize on a card affixed to the arrangement. They will be used as decorations in the Chapel, Meeting Rooms, and Altars.

Please call in your order to the number listed below up until April 1, 2025. Just let them know you are ordering for the 50th Biennial CA CDA State Convention. All flowers will be delivered by the florist, and following the convention, you can pick up the flowers you ordered to take home, or they will be donated to a local hospital or nursing home.

Pictured is a sample of the small arrangement. The medium and large arrangements will have these same flowers but will be the size of Floral Alter Sprays.



The Costs for Arrangements, Including Tax and Deliver:

\$75 Small Bouquet

\$125 Medium Alter Arrangement

\$175 Large Alter Arrangement

ALL FLOWERS USED FOR DECORATIONS MUST BE ORDERED FROM:

JULIE'S LITTLE FLOWER SHOP IN TULARE

(559) 685-1980