



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

September 2010

Dear Catholic Daughters:

As I sat in the Convention Hall at the Adam's Mark Hotel, listening and watching your deliberations, my mind wandered to my Benedictine roots. In the Rule of Saint Benedict one finds the following: "Listen carefully, my son, to the master's instructions, and attend to them with the ear of your heart. This message of mine is for you, then, if you are ready to give up your own will, once and for all. Every time you begin a good work, you must pray to him most earnestly to bring it to perfection".

The Rule of Saint Benedict has been the guide for my life and my basic spirituality. I will be quoting it over and over again, as I correspond with you and even meet with you. In Prologue of the Rule of Saint Benedict, we find two things that can be of highest importance to you as Catholic Daughters of the Americas. First, the very high place of obedience in this Rule and secondly, the importance of prayer.

You have a new National Regent as well as a New Board. You have State Regents and Local Regents, each charged with assuring that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas remain true to their ideals. This is a difficult task, but is made easier when there is total cooperation within the Order.

Are you ready to give up your own will? That is the question of formation for each of us. We give up our will when we acknowledge that there is wisdom much greater than our knowledge. As Catholic Daughters, we must recognize that our Order presupposes that we are willing to give up a great deal of personal freedom in order to grow in deep, inner spiritual freedom.

In modern culture, there is a strong emphasis on MY deciding, MY choices, MY way of thinking, etc. In the Rule, the emphasis is on accepting a way of wisdom that comes to us from others. The emphasis is on allowing ourselves to be formed by the wisdom of scripture, and the wisdom of our CDA Leadership. We must try to live the way they live in order to understand their wisdom. That means giving up our own will.

Each of us must become responsible for our own actions. We will only be able to take such personal responsibility if we have a life of prayer. Whatever we do, we must always do it with prayer. No matter what decisions we take in our lives, we are invited to pray about them first and to try to take such decisions from our prayer. Obedience and prayer. These are the cornerstones of a Catholic Daughter as we seek to love God and our brothers and sisters more faithfully.

May the Lord lead us all to everlasting life. May God give us deeper faith, strong obedience and a lively life of prayer.

Father Ed Lamp, D.Min
National Chaplain