December 27, 2016

To: State Chaplain
   National Regent
   National Regent Elect
   National Director
   State Officers
   Past State Regents
   State Chairmen
   District Deputies
   Local Court Officers and Members

From: Mellie Smithwick, State Convention Chairman

Ref: Call to Convention

This is the official call to the 50th Biennial Texas State Convention and the celebration of the Texas State Court’s 100 years of Unity and Charity. Imagine yourself walking along the seawall on Ocean Dr. with the sea breeze gently on your face and the sand beneath your feet. The Sparkling City is waiting for you to visit, to wine and dine and take in the unique culture that is Corpus Christi.

The 50th Biennial Texas State CDA Convention will convene in the city of Corpus Christi, Texas, April 20-23, 2017, at the American Bank Center, 1901 North Shoreline. The Omni Corpus Christi Hotel is the host hotel located at 900 North Shoreline. The convention theme is “Everything is possible to the one who has faith.” Mark 9:23.

The 2017 convention committee invoked the Holy Spirit with every decision that was made and relied heavily on the convention theme of Faith. Everything has been possible because we have Faith; we have Faith that you will answer the call to convention.

The contents of this packet must be shared with your Court Members. All CDA members in Texas are invited and encouraged to attend the convention. In addition, please extend an invitation to your Court Chaplain and spouses to attend our convention. All clergy in attendance are invited to concelebrate the opening Mass as well as the Mass held daily. Priests are asked to bring their alb and stole if they plan to concelebrate.

Regents will receive a Delegate and Alternate form, from the National CDA Office, which indicates the number of delegates your Court can send to the convention. Your Court should elect Delegates and Alternates no later than February 15, 2017. Complete the enclosed Delegate & Alternate form and mail immediately to State Regent Eve Trevino, 1102 Delta Dr., Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412, after your Court election. If your Court will not be sending Delegates and Alternates to the convention, please mark the form as such and mail the form to State Regent Eve Trevino.

“Everything is possible to the one who has Faith.” – Mark 9:23
A $15.00 per person Bus Transportation fee will be required and has been included on the registration form. Bus transportation will be available to transport to and from the Omni Hotel to the Cathedral and the American Bank Center throughout the convention. There is a parking fee at the American Bank Center and it’s $5.00 per day or $10.00 for a three-day pass. The ticket can be purchased at the Parking Garage Gate.

The dress attire for the convention is business casual. You might want to include a jacket or sweater in the event that the meeting rooms are cold and be advised to wear comfortable shoes. At the Opening Mass on Thursday, April 20, the national, state, and local court officers will wear their robes with white shoes. For the Memorial Mass of Friday, April 21, the Past State Regents and District Deputies are asked to wear white for the entrance procession. Everyone else is encouraged to wear “Red” on Friday in recognition of our military.

You may want to bring plenty of dollars ($1.00) for the Friday Fun Night Photo Booth, and make plans to purchase a one of a kind bell charm made especially for Texas CDA and a 100th birthday charm designed by The Bell Collection of Round Rock, Texas. Visit www.collectbells.com for a preview.

Please read the enclosed items carefully. A convention checklist is included with the packet to help you complete all the steps. Complete and submit the forms by the deadlines listed. Discuss and take action on all information. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the committee chairman and/or the convention committee. Contact information is available on the enclosed forms as well as the letterhead.

The State Convention Committee looks forward to seeing all of you in Corpus Christi for a fun-filled, educational and spiritual gathering. Enclosed with this letter are the following forms, flyers and information:

- Convention Checklist
- Tentative Agenda
- Hotel Information
- Registration Form
- Meal Reservation Form
- List of Deceased Members
- List of Delegate & Alternates
- Vendor/Exhibitor Registration Form
- Program Ad Form
- Workshops (First come/first serve)
- Clergy and Men’s Luncheon Flyer
- Friday Fun Night Flyer
- Saturday Formal Banquet Flyer
- Raffle/Silent Auction/Lucky Lotto Flyer
- Fun Walk/Run Flyer
- Fun Walk/Run Registration Form
- Fun Walk/Run Donation Form
- Convention Volunteer Form

Approved by State Regent Eve Trevino

“Everything is possible to the one who has Faith.” ~ Mark 9:23