The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas was formally established on **February 22, 1926**. The Juniors were designed to foster Christian living in its members, counselors, and everyone who became associated with its activities and goals.

They subscribed to the threefold ideal of being good Catholics, good citizens, and good sports. The secondary purpose of the Juniors’ organization was to have its members matriculate into CDA when they reached the age of eighteen.

The Juniors flourished right from the institution of the first court in Texas. Today, Texas has sixty-eight (68) JCDA courts with 1,061 members.

**8th State Convention, April 29-30, 1931**

*Report:* There are five (5) Junior Catholic Daughter Courts in Texas

The JCDA Assessment in Texas was $5.00 per court, per year.

**16th State Convention, April 26-29, 1948**

*Report:* There are now seven (7) Junior Catholic Daughter courts in three (3) diocese in Texas with a total of 343 Junior members.

Retired Reverend Msgr. Daniel P. O'Connell became the First JCDA State Chaplain Galveston/Houston Diocese, 1948-1954

2001-2005 JCDA State Chairman and Past State Regent Carolyn Malik poses with her granddaughter who is wearing Carolyn's JCDA uniform.
The Juniors motto is “Be Useful” with the standard “Love God, Serve Others, and Live Nobly”.

19th State Convention, April 20-23, 1954

Report: There are now eight (8) Junior Catholic Daughter courts in four (4) diocese in Texas with a total of 409 Junior members.

Reverend Jerome J. Stryk was appointed JCDA State Chaplain San Antonio Diocese, 1954-1958

JCDA Courts throughout Texas have flourishing with a mission statement of Message, Service and Community.

Message: Activities centered on Spiritual and religious development.

Service: Activities that provide emotional, physical or monetary aid and support to the elderly, sick, disabled, homeless, hungry, or in need of child care.

Community: Includes participation in CDA sponsored educational and charitable projects, programs, contests, scholarships, including fellowship and outreach joint adventures.

The Read Across America program is one that is always a fun joint adventure for CDA and JCDA!
25th State Convention, April 21-24, 1966

Report: Reverend John A. Brennan was appointed JCDA State Chaplain Wichita Falls, 1958-1983

National Chaplain Bishop Hafey said that “The greatest thing that has ever been done by the Catholic Daughters of America is the work that they have done for the Juniors.”

The Juniors’ program for girls twelve to eighteen years of age changed including open membership for girls eleven years old and eventually a Juniorette program began for girls between six and ten years of age.

These home based and parish oriented courts gave young girls the advantages of Catholic formation and action within a very strong Catholic component.

25th State Convention, April 21-24, 1966

Report: Two (2) new Junior Catholic Daughter courts were instituted in Texas.

Yoakum Junior Catholic Daughters, Our Lady of Guadalupe #206, February 23, 1969
Counselors helped the girls with activities providing a strong background as deeply spiritual leaders. Eventually the Juniors were situated within the “Sevenfold Program of Involvement” and then in the “Heart Speaks to Heart Program”. And today as JCDA members continue to work through the youth program, JCDA remains a vital component of the “Circle of Love Program.”

Yoakum JCDA, Our Lady of Guadalupe #206, November 10, 1970 Workshop
Presented by Past State Regent Mrs. A. J. Rohan, Millie Schiurring, Mrs. Faykus, Mrs. Pavlcek, and Miss Loretta Knebel

28th State Convention, April 13-16, 1972

Report: Three (3) new Junior Catholic Daughter courts were instituted in Texas

33rd State Convention, April 15-18, 1982

Report: Miss Gayle Priesmeyer, El Campo served as National JCDA Vice President and began the National JCDA “pen Pal” program.

1983

Reverend Msgr. John Carl Peters was appointed JCDA State Chaplain
Victoria Diocese, 1983-2017
35th State Convention, April 17-20, 1986

*Report:* The state Convention 1986 delegation with a voting strength of 364 moved to increase the Texas state assessment to 10 cents per member per year.

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**JCDA Pledge**

I promise to be a faithful member of the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas. To promote development of myself as a whole person. To promote service to others, and To encourage spiritual growth in our members.

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Prior to 1991 the JCDA state conventions were held in homes. Beginning in 1991 with the first hotel held JCDA State Convention in Kingsville, more and more of our JCDA members are now able to attend a convention and share PowerPoint reports about their amazing service projects, banners and scrapbooks.

In 1988, the leadership of the junior courts shifted from national to the state. In 2016, National restructured the JCDA program back under the national CDA umbrella.

Throughout their history, the Juniors have cared for the young, elderly, and those with special needs. The members have faithfully worked the basic values of Message, Service and Community into the creative projects they participate in.

Every quarter, each Junior Court throughout Texas receives “Junior Jazz,” the JCDA State Newsletter. All issues from the WINTER edition of 2006 are archived on the Texas State Court Website > [www.texascda.org](http://www.texascda.org) > COURTS > JCDA > Jr. Jazz Newsletters.

The Junior courts throughout Texas gather biennially June of odd years for the Texas JCDA State Convention. Reports from these conventions are archived on the Texas State Court Website > [www.texascda.org](http://www.texascda.org) > COURTS > JCDA > State Conventions.

The Junior courts throughout Texas gather biennially of even years for the Texas JCDA State Retreat held on Msgr. John Peters Farm in Hallettsville. Reports from these retreats are archived on the Texas State Court Website > [www.texascda.org](http://www.texascda.org) > COURTS > JCDA > State Retreats.