

# KNOW & GROW



## California Convention 2025

### Mission San Diego de Alcalá

California's first mission was founded on July 16, 1769 by Saint Junípero Serra, a Franciscan priest. The Mission was relocated to the present site in 1774 in order to be closer to the American Indian (Kumeyaay) villages, a reliable source of water and good land for farming.

The first of a chain of 21 missions that stretch northward along the coast of California, Mission San Diego became known as the Mother of the Missions. In 1775, just one year after the first adobe church was completed, the mission was raided by Indians and an open fire ensued and the mission suffered substantial damage. Padre Luis Jayme was killed in this attack when he tried to calm the Indians. Padre Jayme became the first Christian Martyr in California and is buried in the Mission Sanctuary.

The 2025 Columbiettes® Convention in San Diego brings together sisters in faith, friendship, and service from across the state to celebrate unity and renewal. This year's gathering took place in the beautiful and historic setting of Mission San Diego de Alcalá—the first of California's 21 missions, founded in 1769 by Saint Junípero Serra. Known as the "Mother of the Missions," this sacred site has stood as a symbol of faith, perseverance, and community for over 250 years. Its whitewashed adobe walls and bell tower serve as timeless reminders of the deep spiritual roots that continue to nourish the Catholic community today.

Mission de Alcalá is also the home of our lovely sisters of St. Junípero Serra Auxiliary



9498. The St. Junípero Serra Columbiettes® Auxiliary, installed in April of 2018, is dedicated to serving the Catholic community of San Diego with faith-filled devotion and a generous spirit of service. Through their commitment to prayer, fellowship, and charitable works, the Auxiliary empowers women to grow spiritually while supporting the mission of the Church and the wider community.



With great pride and enthusiasm, the Auxiliary expressed a heartfelt desire to host the next convention, welcoming fellow Columbiettes® to experience their home parish. In doing so, they were eager to showcase the beauty of Mission de Alcalá, while sharing its rich mission heritage, historical significance, and enduring role as the birthplace of Christianity in California.



This opportunity reflects their deep love for their parish and their dedication to hospitality, unity, and faith.

Mission San Diego de Alcalá remains an active parish and a welcoming cultural center where all are invited to gather, reflect, and celebrate. Visitors are encouraged to take part in its rich history by attending Mass, exploring the mission grounds, and joining in the many events that honor its enduring legacy. Whether you come seeking solace, connection, or a deeper appreciation of our shared faith, you will find warmth and hospitality awaiting you here.

As we began our 2025 Columbiettes® Convention, we did so with gratitude for the generations who built this foundation of faith—and with hearts open to continue their mission of charity, unity, and spiritual growth. Together, let us honor our past, celebrate our present, and look forward to the future with hope and joy.

## SAVE THE DATE

**2026 Columbiettes® Convention  
June 12 - 13, 2026 in Concord, CA.**

### California State Officers

- **President** - Diana Seixas
- **Immediate Past President** - Delana Romero
- **Vice President** - Sandee Woodham
- **Secretary** - Dianne Plaisted
- **Financial Secretary** - Lucia Amerson
- **Treasurer** - Linda Hewett
- **Advocate** - Nancy Garcia
- **Sentinel** - Colleen Sanchez

### California State Presidents

- **#13619 Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton** - Margarita Bracamontes  
*mbracamontes54@hotmail.com*
- **#10414 Saint Anthony** - Patricia Loosli - *pattyfuloosli59@comcast.net*
- **#12853 Saint Ignatius Of Loyola** - Alicia Morales - *alicia\_morales@comcast.net*
- **#9679 St. Frances X. Cabrini** - Stephanie Stine - *stephalump79@gmail.com*
- **#9498 Saint Junipero Serra** - Carla Ingle - *cingle.elli@gmail.com*
- **#13195 Queen Of All Saints** - Ernestine Pasco Sanchez  
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- **#15339 Saint Margaret Mary** - Mary Bartlett - *maryebartlett97@yahoo.com*
- **#7950 Holy Family Of The Mountains** - Cece Hartt - *mtnnana@verizon.net*
- **#16770 Saint Maximilian Kolbe** - Cheryl Royer - *cherylrecovery7@gmail.com*
- **#6038 Saint Bonaventure** - Julie Latini - *JMLatini14@gmail.com*

### California State District Deputies

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- **Kathrina Medeiros** - *mailahkathrina@gmail.com*  
#6038 St. Bonaventure  
#13195 Queen of All Saints
- **Cece Hartt** -  
#9679 St. Frances X. Cabrini  
#7950 Holy Family of the Mountains
- **Delana Romero** - *delanaromero1@gmail.com*  
#12853 St. Ignatius of Loyola
- **Rita Inostroso** - *rfinostroso@gmail.com*  
#13619 St. Margaret Mary  
#15339 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- **Carla Ingle** -  
#9498 St. Junipero Serra
- **Denise Brennan** - *dabs58@gmail.com*  
#16770 St. Maximilian Kolbe

## Convention Business Meeting



## Convention Activities

Convention is always a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow members, discuss common challenges we each experience in running our auxiliaries, network, and enjoy meaningful moments of fellowship. At the same time, it is equally important to be present and engaged in the business portion of the event, as it serves as a true, live example of how effective and respectful



business meetings should be conducted. The ladies of the San Diego de Alcalá Auxiliary thoughtfully arranged a variety of activities for the convention, including check-in with a Meet & Greet, luncheon, a guided tour of the Mission, and the hosting of a beautiful Mass.



Holding the convention at an auxiliary parish **allows for more intimate and customized events**; for instance, members in attendance were treated to a guided tour of the aging parish

and its rich history. We were also given the unique opportunity to view original historical documents preserved in the archives for safe keeping. These experiences fostered a deeper sense of fellowship among members. Hosting meals and gatherings within the auxiliary's own facilities helped keep costs manageable, while many attendees delighted in learning about the rich history of Mission San Diego de Alcalá and its enduring spiritual legacy.

One of the most important aspects of any convention is the business meeting, and it is essential for members to be present and engaged. The business meeting provides a true, working example of how meetings should be properly conducted. It is each President's responsibility to explain and demonstrate to her members the correct way to run meetings, as the Columbiettes® organization follows **Robert's Rules of Order** for the business portion of all meetings. Each officer has a specific role that must be utilized according to established protocol. During the convention, members conducted the business meeting while donning their new event T-shirts, correctly checking in, participating in the vote for next year's officers, listening to a thoughtful address from President Delana Romero, and recognizing exceptional members for their dedicated service. Our gracious hosts, the ladies of **Saint Junipero Serra Auxiliary 9498**, did a wonderful job organizing the event and thoughtfully setting up the meeting space to ensure full participation, while the current State Board—despite being geographically dispersed—successfully collaborated in planning and executing a well-organized and meaningful convention. The convention continues to provide a valuable platform for members to connect, learn, and grow in their service to others. One of the highlights of the event was the honor bestowed by the Mayor of San Diego, proclaiming June 21, 2025, as **"California Columbiettes® Day."**

## Convention Mass



One of the sweetest and most meaningful moments of any convention is gathering together for Mass with our sister Columbiettes® and sharing in Holy Communion. This sacred time strengthens our spiritual bond and reminds us that our **service is rooted in faith**. It is also during this celebration that the newest members of the California State Board were installed, marking a joyful transition of leadership. In San Diego, the local congregation was invited to join us, allowing them to share in this special and prayerful moment with our Columbiette family.



## EXPANSION



California Past President Denise Brenan is currently serving as the Washington State Representative. St Mary's Church in Marysville Washington installed a new auxiliary **Fredrick Harrington Auxiliary #7863**—51 new members. A significant time and dedication were invested in guiding and supporting this new group. Her leadership and assistance were instrumental in helping establish a strong foundation for the auxiliary's continued growth and success.

## Take notice

When printing materials (invitations, flyers, newsletters, and dues notices) the following disclaimer can be used in place of the symbols:



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You **MUST** use the trademark ® wherever the name, "Columbiettes®" appears. You **MUST** use the copyright © symbol where our emblem appears! When posting on social media sites where "Columbiettes®" and/or the emblem appears, you must use the symbols. This includes flyers you post for your State/Chapter/Auxiliary events. When ordering name badges, if the emblem is small, just use the trademark on the word. You do not have to use the symbols on your meeting minutes or celebration cakes.

*We want to hear from all of you about the wonderful things that you are doing. If you would like to submit something that your auxiliary did or have suggestions for features please submit at [NGGarcia032@hotmail.com](mailto:NGGarcia032@hotmail.com).*

## United in Service

On October 11th, the Marion Conference was held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Brentwood, CA. The event brought together parishioners and guests for a day of prayer, reflection, and devotion. The Knights of Columbus and Columbiettes® had the honor of serving as the official Honor Guards for Bishop Barber during the Mass. As Honor Guards, their role was to provide a dignified and respectful presence—standing in formation, leading the way for the bishop, and symbolizing the unity and strength of the Church. Following the service, they continued their duty by accompanying the rosary procession outside and around the church, adding a solemn and reverent touch to this special occasion.



DID YOU KNOW?

Our **Honor Guard** could use more members, if curious visit our California website for additional information ... <https://www.californiacolumbiettes.org/ca-state-honor-guard>

## HERE WE GROW



## New Sisters In Christ

We are thrilled to welcome a brand-new auxiliary to the state of California —

**St. Bonaventure Auxiliary #6038 in Concord, CA!** This

dynamic group launches with an incredible **47 charter members**, a remarkable show of enthusiasm and unity right from the start. This group had so many members to start out that they performed more than one ceremony. With such a strong foundation, these ladies are already setting the tone for an active and inspiring presence within their parish and community. Their excitement is contagious, their faith is strong, and their plans for the future are already taking shape. With 47 bright lights leading the way, St. Bonaventure #6038 is off to an extraordinary beginning — and their lights are truly shining bright!

On October 14, several members of our Ceremonial Initiation Team traveled to Concord to ensure our newest members started out correctly and in accordance with tradition. The team proudly displayed their ceremonial attire—white tops with black bottoms, along with their jewels and ceremonial baldrics—reflecting the dignity and respect of the ritual. The ladies also ensured that the Saint table was properly set up, featuring Mary, St. Thérèse, and Joan of Arc, and fully prepared for the event. Organization protocol is clear and required at every initiation and installation of officers.

# Together we thrive. The good works that we do.

## St. Margaret Mary



The **Auxiliary 15339 of Chino** came together with compassion and dedication, handcrafting 48 beautiful blankets for the Oncology Department at Kaiser Permanente in Ontario, CA. Each blanket was made with love, care, and the heartfelt desire to bring comfort and warmth to those facing difficult times. These remarkable ladies exemplify the true spirit of service and kindness—turning their time and talents into a powerful gesture of hope and support for others in need.

## St. Anthony



The **Auxiliary 10414 of Oakley** walked along neighbors during their cities **Walk Out of the Darkness** event, joining their community in a meaningful effort to raise awareness for suicide prevention and mental health support. As they walked, the ladies prayed the Rosary together, offering intentions for those who struggle, those who have been lost, and the families affected by suicide. This event is important in helping break the silence surrounding mental health, promoting hope, compassion, and the message that no one walks alone in times of darkness.

## Bishop O'Dowd



\$1,000 was given to the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary as the last charitable act of **Auxiliary Bishop O'Dowd** before dissolving at the end of November, 2025.

## From The President's Desk - Diana Seixas

What a marvelous opportunity it is to serve as your California State President. I am truly honored to have your support. I am so proud of all our auxiliary Presidents who have stepped up to serve our ten auxiliaries in California. At our first Presidents meetings of the months since our last convention in San Diego, we have had almost perfect attendance. The work you are all doing both for helping our Knights of Columbus and in the direct work and charities of your auxiliaries.



In seeking a venue for our next convention this **June 12-13, 2026**, I have visited Visalia and Concord. I have appointed **Tina Sanchez**, Convention Chair and **Patricia Loosli** as her Co-Chair. They have also visited Dublin. As Chair of the Convention Tina has also sought information from other venues. It has been decided to have the **Concord Hilton Hotel** host our 2026 California Columbiettes® State Convention.

While visiting Concord I had the opportunity to meet the Mayor, Carlyn Obringer who is a Columbiette herself for dinner. I went to mass at Queen of All Saints with at least a dozen auxiliary members and joined them for brunch at the Butter Cup Restaurant. What a great group of ladies who were so welcoming that I transferred my membership to Queen of All Saints. For those of you who are not aware, Bishop O'Dowd Council, of which I was a member since 2013, was dissolved on December 1, 2025.



I want to thank Nancy Garcia, our Advocate on the State Board, for the wonderful job she has done in writing and designing our newsletter. Kudos to you NANCY for a job well done!  
Blessings,  
Diana

Diana Seixas. President  
CA State Columbiettes®



## St. Frances X Cabrini

Throughout the month of July, the **Auxiliary 9679 of Yucaipa** worked tirelessly on their annual community drive, collecting socks and shoes for two local organizations— Our Neighbors Clothing Closet and Life Choice Pregnancy Center. With the help of church members, family, and friends, the Columbiettes® came together to address a pressing need in their community, where nearly 10% of children in Yucaipa, Mentone, and Calimesa live in low-income or homeless situations. 188 pairs of shoes and 860 pairs of socks were collected.



## St. Junipero Serra

In September, **Auxiliary 9498 of San Diego**, held a successful fundraising effort, **Dudley Bread Sales**, dedicated to supporting vital church projects, with proceeds specifically benefiting the Mission restroom renovation. This event also reflected the Columbiettes® continued commitment to serving the church through hands-on involvement and collaboration, including partnering with the Knights on a membership drive that welcomed three new members.

