



Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Inc.

NEW YORK STATE BOARD

2017 – 2019
NY STATE BOARD

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August 3,
2017

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Dear Sisters,

Vice President

MARY BETH DURKEE
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I am honored and humbled to serve as your New York State Chaplain. I ask for your prayers and assure you of mine. Our President, Jackie Clute, has challenged us to live each day with a spirit of kindness and generosity in our actions and interactions. We are also used to thinking of ourselves as strong women, as leaders who get things done. Can we be both? Yes, we can. Will it be easy? No, it will not. But we never have to do anything alone or under our own power. We have a God who walks with us, strengthens us, and nourishes us. I share the following words for your prayer and consideration:

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The Dangerous Women's Creed

Dear God, please make us dangerous women.

May we be women who acknowledge our power to change, and grow,
and be radically alive for God. May we be healers of wounds and righters of
wrongs.

May we weep with those who weep and speak for those who cannot speak for
themselves.

May we cherish children, embrace the elderly, and empower the poor. May we
pray deeply and teach wisely. May we be strong and gentle leaders. May we sing
songs of joy and talk down fear. May we never hesitate to let passion push us,
conviction compel us, and righteous anger energize us. May we strike fear into all
that is unjust and evil in the world. May we dismantle abusive systems and silence
lies with truth. May we shine like stars in a darkened generation. May we overflow
with goodness in the name of God and by the power of Jesus.

And in that name and by that power, may we change the world. Dear God,
please make us dangerous women.

Amen.

(Dangerous Women Creed
www.lynnhybels.com)

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Can we be both strong and kind? I believe we can. Kindness, though seemingly simple, is quite extraordinary in its power and strength to transform situations, relationships, communities, and ultimately the world. There's a book called *When A Butterfly Sneezes* that asks us to understand that every event or action no matter how small, like a butterfly sneezing, influences other events even if they happen a long time later and in a place far away. We are all interconnected and our behavior, be it kind or unkind, has far reaching impact. Being kind is a choice we can make and remake in each situation throughout our day.

Practicing kindness takes effort and strength of character. It can feel easier to repay another person's unkindness with more of the same, but consider that perhaps there is more going on than is readily apparent. If a person is unkind to you, she is probably hurting, wounded in some way - how you respond tells her what kind of person you are.

I pray that all of our actions and interactions are filled with the power of kindness, love, and mercy so freely given us by our loving and life-giving God.

Three things in human life are important.

The first is to be kind.

The second is to be kind.

The third is to be kind. -- Henry James

Yours in Christ,

Peg Anderson

Margaret M. Anderson, MDiv DMin