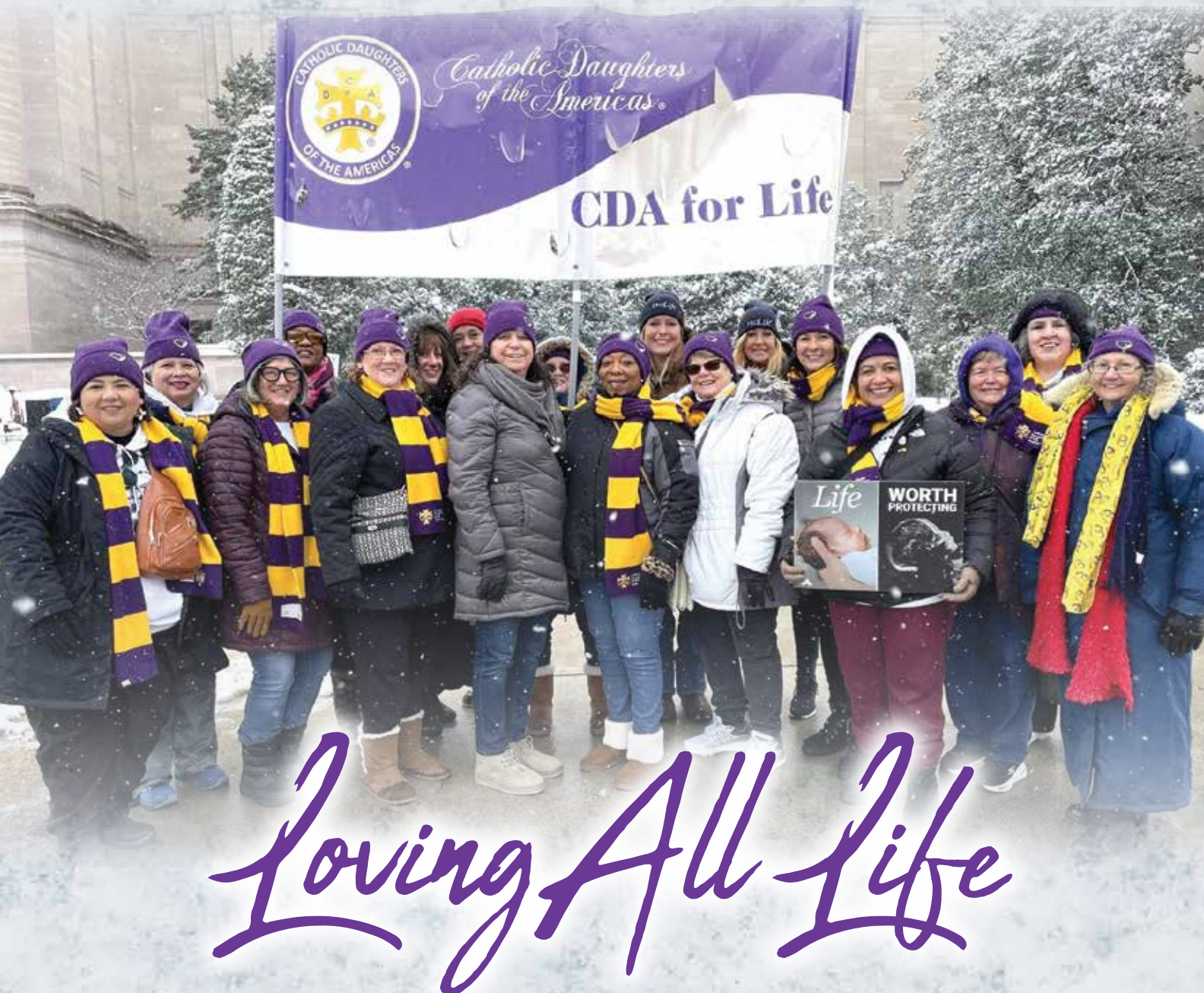


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Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Loving All Life

BRAVING THE STORM FOR THE UNBORN!

CABRINI

IN THEATERS
WOMEN'S DAY MARCH 8

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From Alejandro Monteverde, award-winning director of *Sound of Freedom*, comes the powerful epic of Mother Cabrini. As an Italian immigrant, Missionary Sister Frances Xavier Cabrini steps foot in America in 1889, greeted by disease, crime and impoverished children living in New York's slums. Guided by her unwavering faith, Mother Cabrini sets off on a daring mission to bring God's love and mercy to the marginalized. With a compassionate heart and a determined will, Cabrini relentlessly works to convince the hostile mayor to secure housing and healthcare for society's most vulnerable. Despite facing numerous challenges, including language barriers, poor health and discrimination, the woman who would later become the first Catholic Female American Saint activates her virtues of faith, hope and charity to bring reform to the peripheries.

Follow [@cabrinimovie](https://twitter.com/cabrinimovie) on social media for updates and purchase tickets at

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ABOUT THE FILM

"CABRINI is a beautiful, thoughtful and inspiring movie which tells the story of the early life of Mother Cabrini. We see her as a fiercely strong-willed woman who started with nothing but whose deeply spiritual vision of care for those who are orphaned, poor and in need of medical care propelled her through countless seemingly insurmountable obstacles. It is directed with beauty and precision, and life in Italy, America and the Church in the late 19th century are depicted superbly. As Catholic Daughters, we are inspired by this strong, spiritual woman. Cabrini will be released to the public on March 8 and I not only encourage all Catholic Daughters to see it but everyone should go see this inspiring movie. You don't want to miss this masterpiece."



Emily Guilherme
National Regent

National Chaplain's Message Father Shenan J. Boquet

"Building a Civilization of Life and Love"

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." — Jn 13:34

What makes the commandment *new*?

It is the arrival of the glory of God that came to fill the earth with His light and love. As Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (Jn 8:12).

As Savior and the Light of the world, Jesus' commandment to love each other as He has loved us is not simply a command of imitation. Instead, He invites us to participate in His life and love. Being a disciple, therefore, is not simply an internal affair, but a love and a relationship that is meant to manifest itself to the world through acts of love. For "whoever loves his brother abides in the light" (1 Jn 2:10), says Jesus and "all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

Hence, when we *love one another*, in obedience to the new commandment, we are loving each other with the love of Jesus, the one who loved us first (1 Jn 4:19). His love is perfected in our love, and our love is His love. This understanding is beautifully expressed by St. Paul, who says, "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me" (Gal 2:20). In other words, our identity in Christ carries personal implications, affecting every aspect of our lives, which demands a transformation of lifestyles and behaviors, thoughts and desires, and daily activities and goals.

But sadly, some disciples, like many in society, have lost this understanding. Blinded by self-deception and self-absorption, they are unable to focus on anything except what aids the realization of their expectations, whether they are realistic or unreasonable. This attitude and approach foster indifference toward God and the command to *love one another*. Such individuals believe they are entitled, deserve everything, and reject all that hinders them from achieving the ends they desire. Within such an environment there emerges a mindset, disillusioned and ungrateful, that mocks God, the Author of Life, finding little joy in what God offers, perilously failing to realize that "without the Creator the creature disappears" (*Gaudium et spes*, no. 36). This mindset, the spirit of self-deception and self-absorption, is the foundation upon which the culture of death is built, that leads to the heinous atrocities against human persons and their dignity that we experience.

To alter this mindset, we must reteach people how to "respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life" (*Evangelium vitae*, no. 5), from conception to natural death. It requires a reintroduction of a correct view, a Christian



Father Shenan J. Boquet
National Chaplain

anthropology, of the human person and of his or her unique value; after all, it is the basis of a just and moral society, because "man is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself," having "imprinted his own image and likeness on man (cf. Gen 1:26), conferring upon him an incomparable dignity" (*Centesimus annus*, no. 11).

This mindset, moreover, is the moral foundation of democratic equality and the precondition for civil society. Unless the basic right to life is acknowledged and defended in law, freedom's foundations are gravely weakened as "society becomes a mass

of individuals . . . without any mutual bonds" (*Evangelium vitae*, no. 57). Pope St. John Paul II summarizes it best:

We can say that the cultural change which we are calling for demands from everyone the courage to adopt a new lifestyle, consisting in making practical choices—at the personal, family, social and international level—on the basis of a correct scale of values: the primacy of being over having, of the person over things. This renewed lifestyle involves a passing from indifference to concern for others, from rejection to acceptance of them. Other people are not rivals from whom we must defend ourselves, but brothers and sisters to be supported. They are to be loved for their own sakes, and they enrich us by their very presence (*Evangelium vitae*, no. 98).

As Catholics, we hold a radical and unapologetic vision of the human person, which has inspired the Church for two thousand years to spearhead countless charitable efforts, building up the common good in imitation of the Divine Master, who commanded His disciples, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also must love one another." We assert that in a truly healthy society, people are bound together not by fear or self-interest, but rather by bonds of love for one another.

There can be no transformation, no rebuilding, and no rebirth of society and culture, and no stopping of the culture of death that has overtaken Western society, unless there first occurs a reaffirmation of the dignity of the human person. Within the civilization of love, a person defends and looks out for another because *it's the right thing to do*, because the other person, by virtue of being a person, merits and even demands our protection and love.

Pope Francis summarizes the Church's approach when he says, "This is the way of the Lord: to adore God, to love God above everything, and to love one's neighbor as oneself" (*Love of God and Neighbor Conquers Idolatry and Hypocrisy*, October 2013). This is how we will heal our families and world, but as the Holy Father adds, "it is only possible with grace." So, let us welcome Pope Francis' invitation: to adore and love God, to love our neighbor, and to ask for grace.

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Winter 2024
Volume 54 | Number 1

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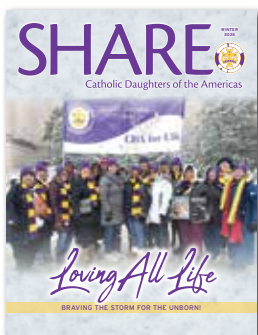
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CDA members are willing to brave the storm to protect the unborn. Faith and conviction can overcome chilling temps. It is obvious, that they are not only willing to talk the talk, but also walk the walk, out of love for all Life.
- Past National Regent Helene Shepard

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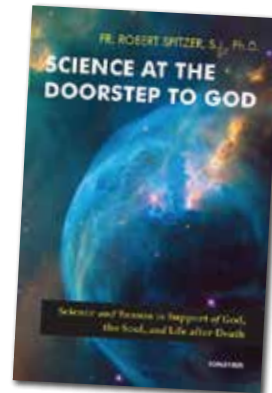


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The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has approximately 60,000 members in 1250 courts in the United States, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

National Regent's Message

National Regent Emily Guilherme

My dear sisters,
Happy New Year and happy Lent. We're getting ready to enter into the desert with Jesus Christ and prepare for His sacrifice and resurrection at the Triduum, but before we get into that, I want to take a few moments to share something that's been on my heart.

We live in polarizing times. In a world of 24-hour cable news and social media, there's never a moment when we don't feel the anxiety of feeling as though our way of life and our values are under attack. We

constantly feel the pull to be defensive and to react to whichever headline is trending. Going into an election year, of course, the anxiety is even worse than normal. It's important for us as Catholic women to tune out the tumult and treachery of partisan politics and remember the words of St. Teresa of Calcutta: "Love them anyway."

I love this saying because it calls to mind not just the sacrificial love which Jesus demonstrated on the cross, as He died on the cross for the very people who were killing Him, but it calls to mind the very people in our lives who make us reactive, defensive, and even anxious for the future.

This phrase, this call to "love them anyway," simplifies our response to whatever is thrown at us in such a beautiful way: are your coworkers tearing you down because you're pro-life? Love them anyway. Are your children getting on your last nerve after saying "mom" for the millionth time this morning? Love them anyway. Is your husband



Emily Guilherme
National Regent

incapable of finding the one object that is sitting right in front of his face? Love him anyway. Is one of your relatives hammering away about what you believe and who you're voting for? Love him/her anyway. Strangers may say offensive or snide things to our faces, but, LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

This can be a radical frame of mind for some of us. Especially when we have a history of being reactive. Some of us might have relatives, with whom we need to create boundaries, and boundaries are healthy. But do not, do not, DO NOT let those boundaries

prevent you from loving them with the love of God the Father. Remember, St Peter tells us in I Peter 4: "love covers a multitude of sins." We may not be able to change the way people treat us, their forgetfulness, or their lack of kindness, but we can still show love. We can still be kind and merciful.

As we progress in this liturgical year, and for the rest of our lives, let's remember that all of us, every single one, are sinners, and we have fallen short of the glory of God. I know in my own life, I have the need to go to confession and to be forgiven. I get angry with people—people that I love and respect. So, I have to remind myself to "love them anyway." As we move through Lent and into the Paschal season, I encourage you to do something radical: to adopt a new way of responding and not being reactive. I encourage you to be like Jesus. When he was dying on the cross, He didn't think of all of the things that we do to mess up. He loved us anyway.



"He said to them... Amen, I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."
Matthew 17:20

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Expressing Love to Others



Essie Walker
First Vice National Regent
National Habitat for Humanity Chairman

How can we as individuals and as a CDA organization express our love for others? When we talk about love, there are different ways one can express love to another. We can show love by learning together, listening, meeting the need of others, showing patience, directing our actions, giving of our time, keeping our promise, sharing without expectations, answering without arguing, being trustworthy, making others feel important, making concessions, being tolerant and kind, accepting people as they are, and by showing respect in everyday life.

Even though all of these can be used to express love, the one most important for the purpose of today's discussion is meeting the needs of others, especially, when it comes to shelter. You might ask why is this one is so important? Today, there is a focus on the lack of affordable housing. Think about the housing market in your city or state.

Since 1995, Catholic Daughters have continued to express their love by making donations to the National Project, Habitat for Humanity. As a reminder, Catholic Daughters was one of the first women's organizations to complete a house in the Habitat's Seven Day Blitz Build. Since that time, Catholic Daughters has had a strong working relationship with Habitat for Humanity in building affordable housing for the poor. CDA donations to Habitat go to build simple, decent and affordable housing to help

LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOUR

disadvantaged families to have a better environment in which to raise their families.

The cost to build a home is different from state to state. A full build can be expensive for smaller states. Well, we have great news. Habitat has a Critical Home Repair Program. This program provides comprehensive repairs designed to address issues where the owner's, usually senior citizens, health and safety might be at risk. This program affords seniors a safer and more secure place to live. Your donations can help replace unsafe structures such as roofing and flooring, Donations will also help with heating and cooling, electrical, plumbing, ramps, railings and walk-in-tubs.

Think about how your court can express love by holding fundraisers to contribute to the National Habitat Project. Please submit donations through your local court. Ask members for their suggestions. Remember all members have a voice.

If your court is interested in a Habitat build or in participating in the Critical Home Repair Program, please complete the application located under Habitat for Humanity on the CDA Website. You must have a fundraiser in progress, prior to submission of the application.

"Give your hands to serve and your heart to love," (St. Mother Teresa) ✝

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A Family's Witness of Love



Connie Dronette
Second Vice National Regent
National Family Chairman

The Catholic Daughters traveled to Washington, DC, for the March for Life, January 19, 2024. It is always an amazing time of faith. The National Board always attends the Vigil Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, the day before the March. The Mass doesn't begin until 5:30 PM, but we arrive at 11:00 AM so that we can sit in the front pews. We take turns saving the seats while some tour the basilica and others visit the St. John Paul II Shrine a few blocks down the road. This year, Darlene Moritz and I traveled in the cold to see the shrine. There was a special exhibit about the first family to become "Blesseds" in the church. I had never heard of the Ulma family and just knew that I would have to share their story with you. We were also blessed to venerate the relics of the Ulma family and of St. John Paul II while at the shrine.

It was holy week, 1944, and the Ulma family was preparing for Easter and the birth of their seventh child. They were also hoping for the day that the eight Jews that were living in their attic could come out of hiding and live again without fear. Early that week, in the middle of the night, German police murdered the entire Ulma family, along with the Jews they had taken in. The Ulmas bore witness to the death and resurrection of Christ with their blood. They shot the parents in front of the children and then shot the children.

The beatification of the Ulma family is an unprecedented event because with one act of beatification, the entire family became "Blesseds." Jozef and Wictoria Ulma together with their seven children were beatified on September 10, 2023, in Markowa, Poland, where the family lived until they were murdered. They were martyred because they were brave enough to secretly house eight people of the Jewish faith under their roof. It was also the beatification of the first unborn baby. "...in proclaiming the entire family "Blessed" and in the decision to beatify an unborn child, the church wishes to confirm and emphasize the beauty, importance and sanctity of matrimony and family life," said Father Witold Burda, the postulator of the Ulma family's cause for canonization. The unborn baby experienced birth at the death of his/her mother. The baby was baptized



Photo courtesy of <https://ulmowie.pl/>

in the blood of his/her mother.

"The story of the Ulma family shows how, faced with a dramatic choice between love and hatred, one can remain faithful to the greatest commandment by sacrificing one's own life," said Supreme Warden Andrzej Anasiak, who served as Poland state deputy from 2014 to 2017. "It is a story of great love confronting evil and tremendous hatred. I think that they were aware that the final word does not belong to the executioners. But to God, who conquers death."

I hope that the story of the Ulma family will leave you wanting to know more. Please check out <https://ulmafamilly.com/> to read their whole story. There are also several short videos on the Ulma family on Youtube. ✨

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A group of people, including men, women, and children, are standing on a beach at sunset. They are holding hands and looking out at the ocean. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The water is calm with some small waves.

LOVING *All Life*



Brenda R. West
National Director
National Spiritual Enhancement Chairman

As I started this article, it is hard to use the word “Love” because it is used so freely in our society. The dictionary defines love as an intense feeling of deep affection, a great interest and pleasure in something and to like or enjoy very much. Food is the most loved thing in the world. Love of cars, homes, clothes, places, cell phones, social media, jobs and other material things. It seems to be the first thing we think about. Family comes second, mothers, fathers, grandparents, grandchildren and great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. friends, office buddies, sorority sisters, fraternity brothers, animals then strangers. A distant third is God, the Church or our religious beliefs.

So, let's break this down. The word love is used to express how much we really like something or someone. A material thing, if we own it and it's in good working condition, is used, and then it is discarded when it no longer meets our needs, Then, we move on to the next item and start a new love affair with a new material thing. We sometimes take care of our pets better than we do our own children.

People who we say we love can be an on and off love affair. One minute they are our whole life's blood. We can't do without them if they meet our needs in life, but in the blink of an eye they can turn on us, and we are the worst people in the world without any idea what caused it. In that split second, do we fall out of love due to the smallest things that may change the situation or their concept of love? God says, “Love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31). Love for all people is at the very center of Jesus' message. “God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son...” (John 3:16). In the early days, God asked us to love Him and follow His commandments (Exodus 20). Throughout history we have regarded some as lesser children of God by making them feel beneath other humans. The reality is we are all children of God, and He loves us as we are.

“Love me as I have loved you...” (John 15:9-17). He sees us only as His creation not as different races. We are one body in Christ and all the same. We walk the same, we believe that faith is the bonding agent to love. Respect for everyone, regardless of race, creed or economic



status. When we see others not like ourselves being ridiculed or mistreated because they are different, the hair on the back of our necks should rise, and we should be able to step in with respect for others and squash this behavior. We as people of God should be able to see past the ugliness and see the face of Christ knowing that He is the truth and the light no matter what your traditions, you should see Christ in all situations. Love for all people is the center of Jesus' message. When morality, respect, kindness and love are not in one's heart, they can look for Christ's face and find it. Can you see the truth? Can you see past the lies? Can you honestly say you believe in Christ's teachings? Man was placed on earth as a love offering to himself. The turmoil we face is in part his plan, but by our choice. Love of others is a choice we make on a regular basis. We should love all regardless of the color of their skin, religion, economic status or race. Love is freely given with no restrictions. Love is the joy we feel for one another. Love is the intimate feeling that makes a family regardless. The heart will lead you to the right place. The heart will keep you in the right place if

you have faith in the one true God. In the Bible, love is the essence of God's character and the defining quality of his selfless relationship with humanity. Love for all people is at the center of Jesus message. "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:30-31). Loving each other as one another, meaning with sacrificial, nonjudgmental, compassionate love, especially for those who have done us wrong or hurt us. "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth" (1 Cor 13:6). The two greatest commandments are "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength and Love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt 22:37-39). In addition, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law" (Gal 5:22-23). "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16). God who is love, sent Jesus Christ to die for us so that we can have eternal life. "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) Amen. ✨

LEADERSHIP

LOVE ALL LIFE



Brenda Anderson
National Director
National Leadership Chairman

Love and life can be wonderful, sad, exciting, messy, and rewarding. Love ALL Life is just a simple phrase, and wouldn't it be great if we could be like the little children who love life, just because? Our children and grandchildren are shining examples of this simple love of life. As adults and CDA leaders, getting through the wonderful, sad, exciting, messy and rewarding parts can be a challenge. I want to break down our "Love All Life" as it can apply to CDA Leadership.

L – Look – try not to look back at past mistakes or failures. Looking ahead with confidence and learning a new direction for your Court takes confidence and trust. Trust yourself to ask for help from other past leaders (local, state or national) if need be. Asking for help is not a weakness but a strength. Look forward to being your own cheerleader.

O – Open – open your heart to the Holy Spirit to guide you on your Leadership journey. The answers you seek will come to you, but you need to be open to receiving and acknowledging the direction you are given. Be open to suggestions from others and be open to receive gifts from God and the Holy Spirit; use them wisely.

V – Values – are you aware of the principles or standards of your behavior or actions? Little children will imitate our behaviors as will members. Do you value your prayer time at the meetings by placing it first? Have you valued your faith by going on spiritual trips, retreats, or having readings and spiritual actions? Lastly, know your value as a leader. At this time, right now, YOU are a leader. Recognize how others see you or come to you for direction. Working side by side with others; members, friends, family, increases our value in this life.

E – Empathy – We often share our stories of the messiness of our lives. Having someone to trust is a gift. Being that person to listen to others shows your empathy. To dismiss or be distracted from the story being told is not what a leader does. Be 'engaged' in the conversation and put yourself in the other's shoes. There will be a time you too will need a shoulder to lean on. Empathy is a part of communication with others in your life. With empathy comes understanding and love.

A – Appreciation – tell someone how you appreciate or are grateful for the work, action, or time they are giving is a gift. Appreciating the people in your life can bring joy. Verbally telling someone thank you, giving a hug or sending a note carries your Love of life forward and could be the difference for that one person that day. Appreciation of others, for even the smallest things is what Jesus would do.

L – Listen – this word comes up all the time. By listening, you become 'present' in the conversation, present in the life of someone else and present to further the direction you want to lead your team or membership. A suggestion might be to take time at your meeting to hold a 'round table' discussion about a court problem or situation. (Membership, attendance, projects etc.) Let this be the program for your meeting. Give everyone time to express their ideas, concerns or suggestions as to how do we improve. Listen. A leader will not take it personally but will listen with an open heart and mind to move the team/court in a more positive direction. Allow time at the next meeting to review solutions given and set up an action plan to achieve what was learned as new ideas.

L – Love – yes, love your members. The ones who come late, even those who do not come and those who are always there ready and willing. Love the process of working together to accomplish goals and love the Lord. Jesus didn't just hang out with the popular, the rich or the familiar. Be like Jesus and love everyone on your team, and you will find reward in learning that love has many faces. "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13: 34-35

L – Learn – learn to be better, learn to be real, learn to share your faith, learn to listen, and realize you are not alone on your leadership journey. All the officers are here to serve you and help you with questions or concerns. In addition, if we do not have an answer or help, (follow the chain of command) we will seek it out and do what we can to help you. Learning is a life adventure – find a podcast, book, mentor and get your ticket to learn something daily.

I – Intentions – what are our intentions or aspirations for our team members? If your intentions are to have the control or power of your court, your members will see that, and not be impressed. Your intentions for all you love in life should be to further their abilities to grow and increase their faith. Your gatherings or presence in a public space should represent the intentions of our Catholic Daughters. To be a Catholic Daughter should not be once a month or just on Sundays, but throughout our day-to-day activities. Check your intentions and ask yourself, where am I going with this? Where am I leading my team?

F – Forgiveness, how strong is our faith? We all desire to be with God someday, and, therefore, work at increasing our faith; but do we forgive one another daily? Is there someone in your life who needs your forgiveness? You know who they are, you think of them perhaps more than others. Forgiving them releases you from the baggage that keeps creeping into your life. Forgiving those people who hurt you also exemplifies the love of life and of our Lord.

E – Enthusiasm – rising in the morning and having an enthusiastic attitude can be hard. Rising and telling God, thank you for another day, another chance at this life will put your day on a better path. Your troubles or problems may seem unbearable, but there are bigger problems or troubles out there. If you look for the positive in every negative, you will see it. Often it is too easy to be negative and lack the enthusiasm needed to get through a day or a meeting but look for the positive and be grateful for having another day. We know not when our last day will be, so we appreciate and love the day we are given. Be enthusiastic.

To LOVE ALL LIFE can be a time to remodel or a regrouping of how you see things, how you act, what you desire to achieve and how you want to be remembered. What will your legacy be as a leader? By loving all life, your legacy will be one of shared gratitude and inspiration. You got this! ✨



I Love All Life



60TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | AUGUST 14-18, 2024

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New Orleans



Susan Moné
National Regent-Elect
National 2024 Convention
Chairman

PONTOON SWAMP TOUR - PRIVATE

Explore Louisiana in its natural state with a tour through our swamp lands. For centuries, Native Americans and Louisiana Cajuns have been living in harmony with these marshlands, home to one of the richest and most diverse ecosystems in the world. Our authentic Cajun guides will escort your group on an expedition through the winding waterways beneath a canopy of ancient cypress trees dripping with Spanish moss. Learn the history of the Cajun people and encounter the unsurpassed beauty of the plants and critters indigenous to the bayous of Louisiana from the comfort of a pontoon boat.

You're likely to see alligators, bald eagles, herons, egrets, raccoons, deer, black bears, nutria, turtles, ducks, and many species of water snakes. Round trip private motorcoach transportation to and from this Cajun village will be provided.

Time: Approximately three and half (3.5) Hours

Cost: \$178.00 per person

Inclusions:

- Roundtrip transportation
- One (1) professional, licensed, uniformed tour guide per motorcoach.
- Private Flat Boat Swamp Tour
- Complete pre-event and on-site management by NOLA DMC
- All taxes are included.

Enhancements:

- Beer/water/soft drinks on the bus
- Box lunch
- Group lunch at designated location.

**Sunday August 11th, Monday August 12th,
Sunday August 18th, Monday August 19th**

- 1:00pm - Depart for Pontoon Swamp Tour
- 2:00pm - 3:45pm - Narrated Pontoon Swamp Tour
- 4:45pm - Arrive at Hotel

Tuesday August 13th

- 8:45 am - Depart for Pontoon Swamp Tour
- 9:45pm - 11:30am - Narrated Pontoon Swamp Tour
- 12:30 pm - Arrive at Hotel

MARDI GRAS WORLD TOUR

Let us bring you a real, behind-the-scenes look at New Orleans Mardi Gras. With a tour of Mardi Gras World, your group will see firsthand what it takes to bring Mardi Gras to life year after year. Walk through the artistry and craftsmanship that go into this grand event with a tour of Blaine Kern Studios, an operating workshop that has created breathtaking floats for Mardi Gras since 1947.

Our Mardi Gras World tour provides an overview of the history of Mardi Gras before our guides take your group through the float den where artists work year-round to build over 500 spectacular floats and props.

Enhance your group's visit with a mask-making workshop to decorate their own one-of-a-kind Carnival creation to take home.

Time: Two (2) Hours

Cost: \$150.00 per person

Inclusions:

- Private tour of Mardi Gras World
- Round trip transportation
- One (1) professional, licensed, uniformed tour guide



per motor coach.

- Complete pre-event and on-site management by NOLA DMC
- All taxes are included.

Enhancements:

- Beer/water/soft drinks on the bus
- Group lunch at designated location
- Mask Making Activity

Sunday August 11th, Tuesday August 13th, Sunday August 18th

Itinerary:

- 9:00am - Depart for Mardi Gras World
- 9:15am - 10:15am - Mardi Gras World Tour
- 10:30am - Depart for Hotel
- 10:45am - Arrive at Hotel

NEW ORLEANS CITY TOUR

Our knowledgeable and friendly tour guide will point out the landmarks and architecture that made New Orleans famous as you enjoy the sights and sounds of the famous French Quarter and historic Jackson Square. Follow the path of the St. Charles Avenue streetcar, past Tulane and Loyola Universities across from Audubon Park, and see the homes of former Kings & Queens of Mardi Gras, huge mansions, and the world-famous, exclusive Garden District.

Time: Three (3) Hours

Cost: \$110.00 per person

Inclusions:

- Narrated New Orleans City tour.
- Round trip transportation
- One (1) professional, licensed, uniformed tour guide per motor coach.
- Complete pre-event and on-site management by NOLA DMC
- All taxes are included.

Enhancements:

- Beer/water/soft drinks on the bus
- Group lunch at designated location

- Cajun Tasting

Sunday August 11th, Tuesday August 13th, Sunday August 18th

Itinerary:

- 9:00am - Depart for City Tour
- 9:00am - 12:00pm - Narrated New Orleans City Tour
- 12:00pm - Arrive at Hotel

THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM

Offering a compelling blend of sweeping narrative and poignant personal detail, The National WWII Museum features immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences, and an expansive collection of artifacts and first-person oral histories, taking visitors inside the story of *The War that Changed the World*. Beyond the Museum's galleries, online collections, virtual field trips, webinars, educational travel programs, and renowned International Conference on World War II, it offers patrons new ways to connect to history and honor the generation that sacrificed so much to secure our freedom.

The Louisiana Memorial Pavilion

Start your Museum visit in this original museum pavilion, with a recreated 1940s train station which serves as the perfect introduction to the Museum experience, inviting guests to follow in the footsteps of new recruits on their way to war.

Additional exhibits in this pavilion take visitors into the monumental efforts on the Home Front with Arsenal of Democracy, and to the beaches of Normandy, focusing on the thousands of men and women who made Allied victory possible.

Don't miss the **LCVP Higgins Boat** to learn the city's connection to WWII and why Congress designated New Orleans as home to the official National WWII Museum.

The Solomon Victory Theater

The Solomon Victory Theater is home to **Beyond All Boundaries**, a 4D cinematic experience produced exclusively for The National WWII Museum by Tom

Hanks, who narrates the film. Beyond All Boundaries features dazzling effects, CGI animation, multilayered environments, and first-person accounts from the trenches to the Home Front read by Brad Pitt, Tobey Maguire, Gary Sinise, Patricia Clarkson, Wendell Pierce, and more. The 48-minute film plays every hour on the hour, and tickets can be purchased for an additional cost.

Campaigns of Courage: European and Pacific Theaters

Follow in the footsteps of the citizen soldier in these 360-degree displays that take visitors through key settings in WWII. The galleries serve as an immersive timeline and provide a service member's view of the war.

Don't miss **Road to Berlin** which details the European Theater, and **Road to Tokyo** which details the Pacific Theater.

The US Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center

Stand beside ground-level tanks and trucks, or brave sky-high catwalks for an up-close look at the WWII airplanes suspended from the soaring ceiling above. The exhibits describe the history and production of war machines, and honor service in every branch of the military. This is the story of America at war -- on land, in the air, and at sea -- told in a way that will fully engage the senses, the mind and the heart.

Don't miss the interactive **Final Mission: USS Tang Submarine Experience** which places visitors aboard the most successful submarine in WWII for its fifth and final war patrol in October 1944. Guests relive the last epic battle of the USS Tang and feel a deeper appreciation for the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in the intense, confined world of underwater warfare.

The John E. Kushner Restoration Pavilion

Get an up-close view at some of the Museum's extensive collection of macro-artifacts, and learn how STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) helped solve some of WWII's toughest problems.

Time: Five (5) hours

Cost: \$198.00 per person

Inclusions:

- Admission to The National WWII Museum
- Admission to Beyond All Boundaries
- Round trip transportation
- One (1) professional, licensed, uniformed tour guide per motor coach.
- Complete pre-event and on-site management by NOLA DMC
- All taxes are included.

Enhancements:

- Beer/water/soft drinks on the bus
- Group lunch at designated location
- Lunch at WWII Museum

**Sunday August 11th, Monday August 12th,
Sunday August 18th, Monday August 19th**

Itinerary:

9:00am Depart

9:30am - 1:30pm - WWII Tour with Beyond All Boundaries
Movie & Final Mission

2:00pm - Arrive at Hotel

CATHOLIC TOURS OF THE CRESCENT CITY

Catholic Tours of the Crescent City invites you to visit some of the most authentic, cultural places in New Orleans, its sacred places. We will visit churches, some of which were built in the 1800s by various nationalities who have immigrated to New Orleans and explore the many different religious orders that helped shape and still influence the culture of this great city. We will also visit one of our Catholic cemeteries and learn about the different types of tombs and why they are built as they are. We will also visit shrines and learn about some of the holy people who have lived here. It is my sincere hope that you will join me in this wonderful journey through the rich Catholic history of this beautiful city.

Tour includes visits to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Shrine of St. Jude, Our Lady of Prompt Succor Church and Shrine, St. Joseph's Church, St. Mary's Assumption Church, Blessed Seelos Shrine, Immaculate Conception Church, St. Louis Cemetery #2 and the grave site of Venerable Henriette Delille.

We will drive through the outskirts of the French Quarter, Central Business District, Magazine St., Irish Channel, Garden District, St. Charles Ave., Uptown and University areas.

Time: Four (4) Hours

Cost: \$175.00 per person

Inclusions:

- Catholic Tours of the Crescent City
- One (1) professional, licensed, uniformed NOLA DMC tour guide.
- Transportation on mini or motor coach
- Complete pre-event and on-site management by NOLA DMC
- All taxes are included.

Enhancements:

- Beer/water/soft drinks on the bus
- Group lunch at designated location

**Monday August 12th, Tuesday August 13th,
Monday August 19th**

Itinerary:

8:00am - Depart

8:30am - 12:30pm - Catholic Tour of the Crescent City

12:45pm - Arrive at Hotel

OLD URSULINE CONVENT MUSEUM

The Old Ursuline Convent is the oldest building in the Mississippi Valley. Constructed by French Colonial Engineers under the auspices of the crown, the convent was designed in 1745 and completed in 1752-1753. Over the centuries, this building has been a convent for the Ursuline nuns, a school, an archbishop's residence, the archdiocesan central office, a meeting place for the Louisiana Legislature. Later, it served as a residence for priests serving mainly the Italian community and then housed the Archdiocesan Archives. Today, together with the St. Louis Cathedral and St. Mary's Church, it forms the Catholic Cultural Heritage Center of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

The Old Ursuline Convent Museum is part of the Catholic Cultural Heritage Center. Our mission is to support a vibrant spiritual life within the New Orleans Catholic community by recognizing and displaying the contributions of our multicultural and multi-ethnic past. Visit our other sites at St. Louis Cathedral and St. Anthony's Garden.

St. Mary's Church at 1116 Chartres St. is a slightly older building than St. Louis Cathedral. Although parts of the cathedral date back to 1727, the bulk of the cathedral-basilica was rebuilt in 1850 and rededicated in 1860. St. Mary's Church served as the place of worship for the bishops and archbishops of New Orleans when they were in residence at the Old Ursuline Convent.

Time: Sixty (60) minutes

Cost: \$128.00 per person

Inclusions:

- Old Ursuline Convent Museum & St. Mary's Church
- One (1) professional, licensed, uniformed NOLA DMC tour guide.
- Transportation on mini or motor coach
- Complete pre-event and on-site management by NOLA DMC
- All taxes are included.

Enhancements:

- Beer/water/soft drinks on the bus

Monday August 11th, Monday August 19th

Itinerary:

9:40am - Depart

10:00am - 11:00am - Ursuline Convent Museum and St Mary's Church Tour

11:15am - Arrive at Hotel 🏨



JCDA Photo Challenge



Yvette Griego
National Director
National Youth/JCDA Chairman

A successful National JCDA Photo Challenge is in the books. Congratulations to *St. Teresa of Calcutta #409 of Perham, Minnesota* the winning court which was selected by random drawing. They received a \$100 gift card courtesy of National CDA to use as they desire to celebrate this win.

Twelve courts submitted pictures for each of the twelve challenges listed. This challenge was designed to encourage the girls to offer help to their parish priest. One JCDA group made dinner for their priest, another court cleaned their priest's home and decorated his house for Christmas. Another court treated their priest to a night at a WWE show. This challenge also included activities like celebrating a feast day, service to others such as members serving meals to senior citizens and taking a selfie with the Regent of their sponsoring court.

A huge thanks to all the courts that participated in this challenge. Several court chairmen mentioned how much the girls enjoyed coming up with activities to submit in this challenge.

A video of all the pictures submitted will be posted on the National Website at catholicdaughters.org soon. Be on the lookout for another JCDA Photo Challenge coming to you soon!

National JCDA Sweet Retreat

Tomorrow's promise lives in today's youth. In responding to their needs today, we shape a better future for all. With great excitement, I am happy to have the opportunity to host the National JCDA Sweet Retreat to be held at Embassy Suites by Hilton in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This event is scheduled for Sunday June 9 to Wednesday, June 12, 2024. The goal is to bring together Junior Catholic Daughters from throughout the nation to gather, grow spiritually, and to develop new and lasting friendships.

The theme of this retreat is "God's Sweet Love for You" with emphasis on the JCDA Motto "Be Useful" and the JCDA Goals of "Love God, Serve Others, and Live Nobly."

We are planning various activities for the girls such

as Daily Mass and Rosary. On Monday morning, the Retreat will begin with local renowned artist, Rosa Calles instructing the girls on Retablo painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Members will learn about the lives of young saints. Ice breakers and scavenger hunts along with singing and dancing are scheduled as well. A day field trip via chartered bus is in the works and will begin with a visit to the Shrine of Saint Therese of the Little Flower, and we will continue our road trip to the historical Santuario de Chimayo in Chimayo, NM, where the dirt credited with many miraculous healings can be found. We will then travel to Santa Fe, NM, to visit the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and the Loretto Chapel Miraculous Staircase believed to have been built by St. Joseph, and we will finish our day off with a pizza party.

Registration fees will cover the use of hotel meeting rooms & meals. To make this event a memorable experience for our JCDA members, we are asking for contributions from our state and local courts.

Ways to help:

• Amazon Wish List

Scan the QR code to find a list of items needed for the retreat. Please share with all members! Your donations are appreciated! All items will be shipped to National Director, Yvette Griego

• Consider sponsoring a JCDA member to attend!

Cover registration fee \$199.00 per attendee and/or hotel cost \$149.00 per night.

• Monetary contributions: Checks or Money Orders are to be made out to: CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS, and mailed to: Yvette Griego, National JCDA Chairman, 1028 Diego Rd, Santa Rosa, NM 88435.

All courts and/or individuals who make contributions will be acknowledged at retreat by printing your name on a banner. Thank you for your support and prayers for a successful National Sweet Retreat. 🙏



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The National March for Life

Susan Mone with hardy Banner Bearers Bernadette Pina Garcia, Brenda West and Mary Impellizeri



By Tom Panas
National Public Relations Chairman



Let it Snow. Let It Snow. Let it Snow.

We Will March! We Will March! We Will March!

Cold temperatures and snow were afoot in Washington, DC during the National March for Life, but that did not deter Catholic Daughters from expressing their strong Pro-Life views.

The five National Officers, several national board members, the New Mexico State Officers and Catholic Daughters from New York and Pennsylvania made their presence seen and voices heard.

“This is the third year for most of us in New Mexico attending the March,” National Director Yvette Griego said. Yvette is from New Mexico and joined the state officers to fly to D.C. “For me personally it was something that I had felt strongly about. Flying to Washington each year to participate in this March, being among so many people who have the same convictions as me, it’s just a great experience each year.”

Yvette added, “What I find is that I am amazed by all the young people who attend, and this leaves you with the feeling of hope that there is optimism for our future and that someday abortion will be no more.”

National Regent Emily Guilherme echoed Yvette’s sentiments. “I’m in awe of the young people and parents

that came with babies in strollers and very young children,” Emily said. “It is a beautiful example to me and to others to march peacefully and with such passion. I’m honored to be a small part of this and see that the next generation will continue this fight for the unborn to have a right to life.”

It was indeed inspiring to see many young people at the Vigil Mass and while marching to see youth with signs that said, “We are the Pro-Life Generation” and hear their enthusiastic and passionate chanting against abortion.

Past Pennsylvania State Regent Shirley Hall and Pennsylvania State Regent Margaret Giordano were there to represent Pennsylvania. Shirley has been going to the March for eight years. “My court supports a Pro Life March in Tyrone where the remains of a female infant were discovered over 30 years ago and laid to rest in our parish cemetery,” Shirley said. “Catholic Daughters conduct a prayer service in the church for those unable to make the 1.5-mile trek to that cemetery and then join the Knights of Columbus to serve a luncheon following the March.”

“I was unable to participate in the March itself, but it gave me time to ponder, again, how precious life is and to

offer my personal prayers as I joined others following the March and its happenings through live streaming.”

Shirley added, “The Vigil Mass is the highlight of my trip as it speaks spiritually to me through others as we, who go very early to the Basilica, witness fellow worshippers spending time in personal prayer for those who cannot speak for themselves.”

Past National Regent Helene Shepard shared Shirley’s feeling. “The Liturgy for the Vigil Mass was filled with reverence and pageantry starting with the entrance procession and closing with a Holy Hour at the end of the Mass,” Helene said. “Catholic Daughters were recognized at the beginning of Mass. We don’t look for it, but affirmation is always accepted. It is wonderful that our leaders could be seated in the sanctuary each year.”

Helene was referring to the fact that the National Regent and National Regent-Elect are treated as dignitaries and given honorary seating in the Sanctuary, which is where Emily Guilherme and Susan Moné were seated. “I’m very thankful and blessed by virtue of my title to be able to have a front row seat to this beautiful and reverent Vigil Mass,” Emily said. “No matter where you are seated it is just a joyful time to share our faith and see the presence of Christ in the Basilica.”

Principal Celebrant and Homilist Most Reverend Michael F. Burbridge, Bishop of Arlington and Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Pro-Life Activities, began his homily by referring to the Pro-Life cause as a “war” and stating that “the war is not over.”

The Bishop was referring to the Supreme Court decision Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health in which the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. This was a great victory, but pro-abortion forces and numerous states immediately began activities to make abortion available and Pro-Life activities must therefore continue.

The Bishop struck a chord with Helene. “Yes. I do agree. We have much to do. Abortions are still going on. Lives are taken. We need to pray now more than ever before.”

Helene knows firsthand about this because of the many years she marched to overturn Roe v. Wade. “This was my 38th march. I started going to the Marches on the bus from Sacred Heart Church in Monroe. When I was on the State Board, I then travelled with ladies from New York State. I can remember years back when there were other National Regents present at the March - Libby Ramirez, Claudia Bosch, Anne Nelson, Joanne Tomassi, Shirley Seyfried, Olga Samaniego, Sherry Nilles, M. Joan McKenna, and as far back as Eunice Riles. There were many National Directors who have attended in the past.”

Later in his homily, Bishop Burbridge added that women



A friendly wave from attendees after the Annual Legislative Meeting on Saturday morning



New Mexico State Officers at the Vigil Mass



Snowy weather did not deter Mary Impellizeri, Essie Walker and Margaret Giordano



National Regent Emily Guilherme with Monsignor Rossi, Rector of the Basilica



A view of the beautiful Basilica beyond sisters in prayer



There was much joy while marching



Worshippers gathered after the Vigil Mass

who choose to have a baby amidst pressure to abort must be taken care of. It is not enough to provide moral support, but physical and financial necessities must be attended to as well.

The Catholic Daughters are really good at this. The theme of the March was **With Every Woman and For Every Child** and the Catholic Daughters execute this at the local level. Local courts hold baby showers and donate baby items such as diapers, booties, wraps and other things to expectant mothers and young, new mothers and their babies. Often the gifts are handmade, for residents of Maternity Units in hospitals, pregnancy centers and moms in homeless shelters.

Emily echoed this in her interview with Teresa Tomeo on EWTN.

“This issue is so important to me and how we need to continue to fight for the unborn especially in our individual states and journey with single mothers that need our support and prayers.”

When Emily was asked what it was like to convey this important message to millions of people across the globe, she said with characteristic modesty, “I’m not going to lie. It was very nerve racking; I was praying to the Holy Spirit that I would convey the right words!”

At the traditional Legislative Meeting on the Saturday morning after the March the guest speaker was Royce Hood from the Law of Life Summit. Royce talked about how he has 10 children – “seven surviving and three in heaven.” It was sad to learn how tragically he and his wife had lost three children at various stages of pregnancy and shortly after birth.

Royce stated that the big enemy in the Pro-Life Movement is “Misinformation.” As an example, he talked about how the very influential news organization The Associated Press (AP) insists that outlets using their stories refer to the Pro-Life movement as “anti-abortion,” not “Pro Life.” This kind of verbal manipulation permeates the “war” that Bishop Burbidge referred to in his homily and it is an insidious and ubiquitous enemy.

The National March for Life and accompanying events were a fulfilling expression of the Catholic Daughter’s and church’s Pro-Life position and passion. As Helene Shepard said, “I returned home quite satisfied that I had attended my 38th March in 2024 as a Catholic Daughter.”

Emily Guilherme said she will continue to come to the March when her term as National Regent ends. “I believe in the mission of the March for Life. It is so hopeful when we can come together from all parts of the US and other parts of the world to fight for something we believe in so passionately.” 🙏

Membership

Entrust to the Mother of God



M. Susan Hicks
National Director
National Membership Chairman

Pope Francis has themed 2024 with “**Entrust 2024 to the Mother of God.**” Through our membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, we can embrace this beautiful aspiration. Encompassing this agenda in the next year will benefit us as individuals and as stronger members of CDA. If we can consider areas, we can grow in the God given gifts with which we have been bestowed; we will also allow our CDA sisterhood to be shown in a new light for others to see and choose to join.

A Sense of Interconnectedness: If we recognize the value and worth of all living things from the tiniest microorganism to the tallest tree, we can foster a deep respect for the web of life and our place within it.

Compassion and Empathy: By extending kindness and understanding to all creatures, even those we may find challenging or unfamiliar, we lead the way of compassion. This involves appreciating the complexity of life and the unique experiences of each being.

Active Care and Stewardship: When we take responsibility for protecting and nurturing the planet and its inhabitants, we are being the example and taking the lead. This involves actions like environmental conservation, animal welfare, advocacy, supporting sustainable practices.

Personal Transformation: Cultivating a more loving and open heart toward oneself and others leads us on an inner journey. This journey can lead to a greater sense of joy and fulfillment.

Intercession: When we use Mary to intercede for humanity, trusting her in our act of faith, intercession for the increased love and compassion towards all life, we are entrusting Mary to not only guide us into action but to gather us as one action.

Model of Love: Mary is, particularly for her maternal love for Jesus and her selflessness, allowing us to look at her as a role model and source of inspiration. This could be one of the more powerful ways to cultivate our own

love for all living things.

Grace and Transformation: Mary is a conduit of God’s grace. By entrusting oneself or the world to her we can show our openness to receive that grace and allow her to transform us to a greater love for ourselves and others.

Practical Devotional Practices: When we engage in Marian devotions by praying the Rosary and meditating on Mary’s life, we will deepen our connection to her. This engagement will also strengthen our resolve to love all life.

Acts of Service: We honor Mary’s example of compassion. This compassion motivates us to engage in acts of service that directly benefit others and the environment, animal shelters, conservation projects, Habitat for Humanity, homeless shelters, and many other projects CDA members are involved in.

Personal Reflection: Spending time in quiet reflection and prayer, asking for Mary’s guidance, seeking to understand how to be better, embodying love for all life are all powerful tools for personal growth and transformation. A personal and internal decision based on our faith transpires. The path to loving all life is an ongoing journey filled with joys and challenges. Our efforts contribute to a world where all life is respected and cherished. It’s about finding balance between protecting individuals’ well-being and loving all life.

Consider Exploration: What does loving all life mean to you? What are some ways you can cultivate this feeling in your daily life? What challenges do you think you might face? How can you learn from and be inspired by others who already practice love for all life? (I will be posting these questions in the coming weeks on the Facebook National CDA Page.)

Remember even small acts of kindness and compassion can have ripple effects, contributing to a more loving harmonious world. The idea of entrusting 2024 to Mary, the Mother of God, is a way to foster love of all life. It is a deeply personal journey. One that CDA members share. 🌸

Information and thoughts are gathered from various Vatican sites, EWTN, web searches and personal opinion.

QUALITY OF LIFE:

Loving ALL LIFE



Nancy Bambenek
National Director
National Quality of Life Chairman

Thank you, Emily, National Regent, for assigning me this great topic to write on. It is a perfect fit for a Quality-of-Life article. "Loving All Life" is the heart of our ministering to the needs of all peoples. We do this with compassion, support and love. We are the helping hands and feet where there is pain, poverty, sorrow and sickness. Much like Jesus, we are not expected to walk our journey/mission alone. Jesus chose a group of men to carry out his mission when he returned to the Father. We join an organization called, CDA, so like-minded women will be with us, sent forth to show love and carry out our good works when we are gone. (Hopefully back to our Heavenly Father.)

Instead of me writing more, please allow me to show you just a few of the courts who are doing all the "loving."

Loving School Age Children "Emergency Backpack Project." The court supplies age and gender appropriate backpacks for newborns through age 18 to the Family Services Department. The back packs include PJ's, blanket, stuffed animal, hygiene products, and a toy or activity with a pen and pad. The children have been removed from their unsafe homes in emergency situations. The court has lovingly supplied approximately 60 backpacks to children in need of safety and comfort during this difficult stressful time.

**Court Our Lady of Fatima, #1979,
Hardin, MT 25 member.**

Loving the Unborn "The Layette Factory." This dedicated small court continues to be generous to the families expecting a baby. They are a mighty team dedicated to this program. They have a baby shower yearly in the first week of February to collect items. They work through five organizations/agencies within Clatsop County to make their labor of love visible to the moms and dads of the unborn baby. What a blessing their efforts are to the many families in need setting them up for success with their newborn babies!

**Court Columbia, #151,
Astoria, Oregon 33 members**

Loving the Veterans. Every year on November 11th, this court does the Patriotic Rosary after the 9 am Mass. We dedicate it to our Veterans living and dead. There are prayers said by a past prominent American at the beginning of every decade. In this Rosary we pray for government officials, individual states, and their citizens. We have reached across our state to all our Courts, and to the Knights of Columbus Councils, to join us live on Facebook through our parish. We sometimes expose the Blessed Sacrament during the Rosary and have Choir members lead us in the songs. Many compliments from vets who feel the gratitude these members show for all veterans and the country they serve/served.

**Court Our Lady Queen of Peace, #2463,
Bothell, WA, 36 members.**

Loving Families. "Mary Meal Maker" The court does a variety of activities to help all community families. One activity we enjoy doing and are very proud of the results is preparing meals for families. Meals are made, frozen and then delivered when a need arises. They include those families who work with foster care children and the process. Meals also for families who are dealing with long term clinic appointments or grief. These home cooked meals are always appreciated after a long or stressful day.

**Court Our Lady of the Holy Redeemer #2574,
El Dorado, AK, 30 members**

Loving the Homeless & Poor. This rural area court has a BIG heart for CDA and the Poor. Each year they have a fundraiser to fill their local food pantry. They also fill a food pantry for the Iowa State Fall Event. Their famous soups are known for miles around. The locals know to come early. The success is known by a "sold out" sign on the door! They not only think about their own around them, but they think globally. After hearing about a need for a kitchen stove in Guatemala, they sent money.

**Court Fidelis, #342,
Wesley IA, 18 members**

Does one or more of these court activities inspire or resonate with you? They do me! One of the many reasons I joined CDA several years ago was to be able to love people through my good works. I thought to myself, how could I ever as an individual do what these ladies do together? Impossible was my answer. So, I joined them to be stronger, resourceful, visible, helpful, loving and to make a difference in a life.

I shout for joy and give thanks when I hear or read about all the love we are giving as an organization and serving our Heavenly Father with our acts of charity and love. Sin and darkness are NOT more powerful than God's grace. Even those who suffer from isolation, neglect, injustice, poverty or unforgiveness can experience the gentle yet strong love that Catholic Daughters have for All Life. Way to Go Ladies!!! Keep on Loving All Gods Life no matter the time or cost! 🙌



CDA Benefactor Spotlight

Holy Cross Family Ministries



Fr. Fred Jenga
President
Holy Cross Family Ministries

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) was founded in 1903 dedicated to the principles of “Unity and Charity,” and, today, under the leadership of National Regent Emily Guilherme has nearly 63,000 members in 1,250 courts in the United States and her territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, and Mexico. The integration of “Spirituality and Service” is at the heart and soul of the foundation of The Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

The Catholic Daughters’ 75 years of steadfast support of Holy Cross Family Ministries (HCFM) has been foundational to the mission of the spiritual well-being of families through Rosary prayer. In 1948, when Father Peyton sought their support for his Crusade for Family Prayer, CDA answered his call to promote the Family Rosary in homes and parishes throughout their courts. Then in 1952, as Father Peyton took to the airwaves to broadcast his message “The Family That Prays Together Stays Together,” he turned to his friends at the Catholic Daughters to finance the \$25,000 cost of his new venture in radio, fifteen half-hour dramatic presentations based on the mysteries of the Rosary. These radio programs were well received, made into records, and became instrumental in Father Peyton’s International Crusades, through which he inspired twenty-eight million people to pray the Rosary.

In 1977, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas formally established Holy Cross Family Ministries as one of their top charities under the Family spoke of the CDA CIRCLE OF LOVE Program. The partnership has flourished and has been strengthened throughout the decades through engagement of the National Board and State Courts, including recently deceased Past National Regent Anne Nelson who served on the HCFM Board for many years.

The President and/or one of the Priests serving at HCFM have gathered with the Catholic Daughters at most of the CDA Biennial Conventions over the last few decades. Father Fred Jenga, C.S.C., looks forward to attending the upcoming Biennial Convention in New Orleans.

Over the last three years, the Massachusetts State Court has held its annual meeting at The Father Peyton Center with Father Fred Jenga, C.S.C. praying the Rosary and blessing the daughters at the most recent meeting last October. In addition, several members of Our Lady of Lourdes Court #2396 volunteer weekly at The Father Peyton Center to assemble Rosaries in packages with instructions that are distributed to over 800,000 people globally.

A recent highlight in the CDA partnership was a visit by the National Board to The Father Peyton Center for a day of prayer, fellowship, and ministry update with Father Fred Jenga and his team on our shared mission to families with ***We Prayed! A Campaign for Family Prayer***. With a renewed spirit and refreshed vision, the campaign continues Father Peyton’s campaign that he began 75 years ago for the spiritual development of families. The \$6.1 million capital campaign will transform The Father Peyton Center into a prayer destination for families, with a dignified resting place for Venerable Patrick Peyton, a beautiful Lourdes Grotto, and a Rosary Garden. Shortly after their visit, the National Board of The Catholic Daughters of the Americas made a \$100,000 pledge to ***We Prayed! A Campaign for Family Prayer***, which marks 75 years since their initial support of Father Peyton’s Crusade for Family Prayer.

Holy Cross Family Ministries is immensely grateful for our decades-long partnership with the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in our shared mission of helping families flourish in the Catholic faith through our ministry programs, Ministry Centers, and faith-based media. 🙏



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS & HOLY CROSS FAMILY MINISTRIES

Serving Families Together for More than 75 Years

Father Fred Jenga, C.S.C., President, and the global team at Holy Cross Family Ministries congratulate the Catholic Daughters on their 60th Catholic Daughter Biennial National Convention. We are grateful for your service to families and for your continued partnership.

Holy Cross Family Ministries is a family of Catholic ministries that inspires, promotes, and fosters the prayer life and spiritual well-being of families throughout the world offering free prayer resources and events.



HOLY CROSS
FAMILY MINISTRIES

HCFM.org



March for Life *Keeps Momentum Going*



Margaret Sitte
National Legislative Chair

Some people may ask why the March for Life has continued in these years since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*. The shortest answer is that the work is far from finished. Pro-life advocates come to D.C. every year, not just to march, but to partake in a national movement, to meet with other pro-life strategists, and to forge a path forward in protecting every human being from conception to natural death.

For the past twelve years, a group of pro-life lawyers, organizational leaders and activists have met in Washington, D.C., the day prior to the March for Life, to discuss the legal issues in the pro-life movement. Royce Hood, a pro-life leader and graduate of Ave Maria Law School, founded the summit. This year the day after the March for Life, he took time to explain his work to the National Board of the Catholic Daughters.

He said the biggest issue facing the pro-life movement is misinformation from the other side. Hood said, “They don’t want you to know babies can react to Mom and Dad in the womb.” We must fact check everything, he said, to counter the misinformation campaign being waged against us.

During the Law of Life Summit, there is a “Firehose Session,” where pro-life speakers are allowed two to three minutes to explain their most recent projects. Fourteen people spoke this year. Here are a few highlights:

In Illinois, California and other states, legislators and governors are trying to force every pro-life pregnancy center to refer for abortions. Lawyer Timmothy Garnett from Alliance Defending Freedom (adflegal.org) said his organization is working to protect pro-life pregnancy centers so they can stay true to their mission of saving innocent lives.

This November, voters in 11 states will face ballot measures to loosen abortion laws. Scott Baker at Cogency Strategic (cogencystrategic.com), is helping the pro-life

sides strategize and win against these anti-life measures.

The Thomas More Society (thomasmoresociety.org) hosted a panel to inform people about their work on several fronts:

- Executive Vice President and Head of Litigation Peter Breen discussed how the Illinois win against SB 1909 that was aimed at restricting or even closing pro-life pregnancy centers can be used as a blueprint for winning similar battles in other states.
- Professor Teresa Collet, from the University of St. Thomas School of Law, explained the constitutional protections that should be extended to children in the womb. Then she explained the court challenge to New York state’s radical Reproductive Health Act, that erases all protections for the unborn.
- Senior Counsel Martin Cannon discussed the overreach, abuses and overzealous prosecutions that have resulted from the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act). He explained why the charges intimidate and ultimately affect every aspect of the pro-life movement.

In another panel discussion, Abby Johnson, the former Planned Parenthood clinic director, described her work on a new documentary, *Unthinkable*, to help people realize that abortion should be “unthinkable.” Johnson and her organization have helped 700 former abortion workers including seven doctors leave Planned Parenthood for Jesus Christ. They have helped to close 47 abortion facilities. To make the film, Johnson brought dozens of former abortion workers together to discuss the systemic abuse of women in the abortion industry. To learn more, visit unthinkabledoc.com.

On many fronts, the pro-life movement is working harder than ever to educate and motivate people to continue defending life. The Law of Life Summit is just one way to keep that momentum going. 🙏



The Jared Box



Cindy Kolarik
Executive Director
The Jared Box Project



The Jared Box Project is on a mission to bring joy and smiles to children in the hospital.

For over 20 years The Jared Box Project has delivered smiles, laughter, and hope to children in hospitals across the country. Over one million Jared Boxes have been made! Jared Boxes have been made in all 50 states and given to children in more than 500 hospitals.

The project is a “give local” service project. Groups make Jared Boxes for the children in their local hospitals. Recently, Court Blessed Madonna #2521 of The Catholic Daughters of the Americas in State College, PA, made Jared Boxes as a service project. The Catholic Daughters at Saint Matthews Catholic Church in Tyrone, PA, plan to make Jared Boxes in February. We invite Catholic Daughters across the country to join us and make Jared Boxes for the children in your local hospital.

Jared Boxes are plastic shoe boxes filled with small gifts, toys, cards, games, and other fun activities. These boxes are made by local community groups and given to children in emergency rooms, hospital rooms, surgical centers, and clinics.

Although The Jared Box Project has reached its millionth milestone, the joy that these special boxes bring to children and their families is immeasurable.

The project was started in 2001 by the children of Our Lady of Victory Catholic School in State College, Pennsylvania,

to honor their classmate, Jared, who battled cancer with courage and faith. Jared was diagnosed with an incurable brainstem tumor in 1999. He carried a backpack full of toys and games to all appointments and questioned why the other children didn’t bring toys to their exam rooms. Jared shared his toys and invited the other children to join him in a game of UNO. At just 5 years old, he demonstrated faith, wisdom, and compassion for others.

After Jared passed away, his classmates decided to honor him by creating Jared Boxes. The school children made 81 Jared Boxes for the children at Geisinger Janet Weis Children’s Hospital in Danville, Pennsylvania. Soon after that, other community groups started making Jared Boxes. They picked up where Jared left off and shared toys with children in the hospital. This wave of kindness quickly took off and spread across the country.

The Jared Box organization connects hospitals throughout the country with local community groups (schools, churches, universities, businesses, and other civic groups) to make the boxes in each area. Thousands of groups have made Jared boxes for hospitals in their own communities.

The Jared Box Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To learn more, visit www.thejaredbox.org. In addition, Executive Director, Cindy Kolarik, is available to share the story at club meetings via zoom. 🙏

A SPIRITUAL RETREAT: *Finding God in the Silence*



Connie Dronette
Second Vice National Regent
National Family Chairman

Thirty-three women made their way through the Wedding at Cana as they entered the Spiritual Life Center in Bel-Aire, Kansas. The life-sized statues greeted us and gave us a glimpse of what was in store for the weekend. There was a chill in the air as the sun kissed our cheeks which were wide in smiles as we greeted each other. Father Boquet and the National Board members attending arrived on Thursday to get things set up. Most Retreatants arrived on Friday before noon. We gathered to share lunch followed by Holy Mass and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

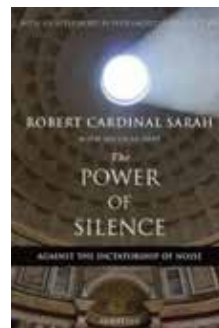


After the Divine Mercy Chaplet, we toured the center. One of my favorite places (and there were many) was the Adoration Chapel. The Tabernacle sat on a sandstone boulder that was over 3 million years old. It was an impressive quiet space to be alone with the Lord. There were quiet places and

community spaces tucked in throughout the retreat center. You could spot three or four retreatants together sharing their lives with each other. Retreatants could get away to be with the Lord in the chapel and other quaint spaces. There was also a conference room with the icons of all the Doctors of the Church, possibly the only one in the country.

The grounds were just as incredible as the indoor spaces. There was a Way of the Cross Walk. A group of ladies walked around Friday afternoon and an impromptu prayer service along the stations was started by one of

the retreatants. It was quite touching for all of us. At the very end was a tombstone that was cracked down the middle with a white cloth coming from the crack. It was the first time any of us had experienced a contemporary grave in the walk. It was so touching, we just had to take a picture.



Evening brought us together for the first talk by Father Boquet. He moved each one of us in the direction that the Holy Spirit was calling us. He gave us much to think about as we drifted off to sleep later that evening. One of the resources he used was the book "The Power of Silence" by Robert Cardinal Sarah.

If you have not read this book, it would be a great one for the Lenten season. But before we went back to our rooms, we started a painting project. Retreatants were given a small canvas and instructed to paint a base coat. They asked many questions about what they were painting, but were told that it would be revealed in time. The night ended with the Rosary and all went back to their rooms in silence.

Saturday morning began with Breakfast followed by the Rosary. We were captivated by Father Boquet for the morning talks. He is such a dynamic speaker, and we were pretty much mesmerized. The Holy Spirit had us right where He wanted us. Father gave us the tools we needed to navigate silence in our days and our lives. He helped us to develop a practical plan that we could start the minute we returned home.

After lunch, we took the opportunity to take a group picture and have a little fun at the wedding of Cana.



Thanks to Crystal Montoya, New Mexico State First Vice Regent, we have these wonderful pictures and even a video that was shared on the National Facebook Page.

We continued the journey listening to Father Boquet. We all agreed that we could listen to him all day! We worked on our painting project a little, wondering what we would have when they were finished. We had Confessions and Holy Mass. That evening after dinner, we gathered again to continue the retreat experience. We painted and painted and finally the picture came to life. It was the creche with baby Jesus. Everyone's art looked beautiful and those who thought they could not be a painter became one!

When the evening was over, some ladies were not ready to retire so there were lots of little groups around the communal areas who were enjoying talking with their CDA sisters. The next morning, it was time to wrap things up, and Father did an amazing job of getting us ready with our new knowledge to go back into the world and find silent time with God. The First Sunday of Advent was two weeks away, so it was wonderful timing.

Everyone was asked to share their experience on the retreat. I wish I could share all of them, but it would take up most of the Share magazine.

I've been struggling with how to go deeper into my relationship with God. This retreat not only pointed me toward the way but helped me start on it. Barbara Zellers, Maryland.

Retreat was wonderful and allowed time to remove the noise so that we could hear the voice of God. Bernadette Garcia, New Mexico

God calls us to put our nets into the deep water. Father Boquet provided specific ways we can listen to God's call. He reminded us that God is speaking all the time, but we need to listen. This retreat allowed us to get in touch with God. Karen Dudash, Altus, Oklahoma

Reinforcement to continue to grow my prayer life. To share the importance of silence in our life. The spiritual direction was fantastic. Mary Jane Armstrong, Sterling, Colorado

A great message to enhance one's spirituality from an excellent presenter. Our souls are inspired and closer to our Lord. Jo Ella Newberry, Tulsa. Oklahoma

This is the first retreat with CDA, and it was wonderful. So much fun and laughter! Faith filled ladies and Father gave great talks. Sherry Richardson

After 10 days of mishaps that could have kept me from attending the retreat, I felt like the devil was trying to derail me. Hearing Father Boquet say that God made it happen for the "35" to be here. I knew that this spiritual battle had been won. The theme of the weekend, purging out noise, is exactly what I needed to be refreshed and renewed before the Advent season begins. Crystal Montoya, New Mexico.

The Fall CDA Retreat was a time of quiet reflection and a time of fellowship and sharing . . . focusing on detachment and silence. Growing in our personal faith journey and ways to help our Court members grow in their faith journey, as well. Cindy Bishop, Bellevue, Nebraska.

This retreat was exactly what I needed. I had been struggling with "something" but couldn't put my finger on it. Noise and distractions were the something. I feel renewed and ready to regroup to renew my relationship with Jesus by increasing and working on my prayer life, Debbie Brzozowski. Oklahoma.

I want to thank Father Boquet and the retreat team who helped make this retreat a beautiful time with the Lord. It will be a happy memory for many of us. 🙏



Washington Court Member *Helps the Homeless*



This story originally appeared in Northwest Catholic, the magazine of the Archdiocese of Seattle. It is reprinted with permission. The story features Van Phan, a member of Court St. Rita #957, Everett, Washington. Photos courtesy of Stephen Brashear.

After she and her children survived communist Vietnam, Van Phan pledged to always serve God. Outside an Everett grocery store on a dark, drizzly November evening, men who seem to be carrying the bulk of their belongings gather under an overhang to escape the rain.

A white van pulls into the parking lot, its passengers looking for people in need.

“You want some food?” the driver asks.

Several volunteers from MercyWatch, an outreach to people living on the streets of Snohomish County, emerge from the van with bags of sandwiches, fruit and water. They offer clean socks and basic first aid supplies.

One of the volunteers is 84-year-old Van Phan (pronounced Von Fan), who offers toiletries and hand warmers to the men. A large man wearing a beanie and with a lollipop stick jutting out of his mouth asks no one in particular, “Can you do me a favor and pray for us all out here?”

Phan, a member of St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Everett, immediately places her hand on his arm. Bowing her head, invoking the name of the Lord, she prays then and there.

Afterward, Phan asks, “Do you pray the rosary?” She pulls a rosary of green plastic beads from her coat pocket and puts it in the man’s hand, showing him how to wear it on his wrist and wrap the cross into his palm.

Then the group is back in the van, headed off to the next alley or parking lot to offer food to others in need.

Phan rides with the group of volunteers every Tuesday and Thursday evening without fail — “unless she’s sick,” said Deacon Dennis Kelly, who founded MercyWatch seven years ago. “But she’s hardly ever sick.”

That dedication to volunteering would be remarkable enough, but MercyWatch is just one of many ways Phan said she serves God.

A retired nurse and mother of five daughters, Phan regularly volunteers at an Everett medical clinic. Before

the pandemic, she spent Friday nights praying with inmates at the Washington State Reformatory at the Monroe Corrections Complex, where

she provided hospice care to dying inmates. She has also spent considerable time providing hospice services as a volunteer with Providence Hospice and Home Care.

She has saved the money she made working part time at an eye surgery center to pay her way to poor countries to serve alongside nuns and priests there: El Salvador, Sri Lanka, India, Haiti and twice back to her home country of Vietnam. Last year, she visited Tanzania and Uganda. In January, she volunteered in Puno, Peru.

“We call her St. Van,” Deacon Kelly said. “When we have personal things we want people to pray for, we ask her to be our intercessor.”

Phan said that kind of attention embarrasses her. “I don’t feel comfortable with that, when they say, ‘You are a holy woman,’” she said. “Only God is holy. Praise the Lord — it’s not from me, it’s from God. To say thanks to the Lord for me is OK,” Phan said. “But don’t praise me. I’m just an instrument.”

Catholic faith forged in Vietnam

Phan clearly remembers becoming Catholic during her youth in Vietnam. Her parents sent their five sons and two daughters to Catholic school. “My oldest brother, me, and my young sister became Catholic,” she said.

But it was much later, married and with children of her own, that she truly embraced her faith.

She recalls the days in the 1970s, following the U.S. military withdrawal from Vietnam, when communists took over the country. Phan believes her husband, a private ship captain and harbormaster, was killed when he was mistaken for a member of the South Vietnamese military. She was sent to a re-education camp.

“They interviewed me — every day, every day,” said Phan, who had a 1-year-old child at the time.

They asked if anyone could come and take the baby home. Her husband’s brother, from the north part of



Vietnam, came and took the baby into his care.

Then Phan and her other young children were made to work in remote rice fields with “water up to your chest,” she remembered.

“They say, ‘You plant the corn.’ I don’t know how to plant the corn,” said Phan, who had worked as a midwife. “You have an acre to finish before you can go home. There’s soldiers with the gun. You stay there until you finish it, then you go home with just one bowl of rice with white salt.”

She lived under communist rule for seven years, sometimes hearing word of a brother who had gotten out and arrived in Guam, or of one of her children who escaped a work camp but was recaptured.

“Sometimes I have nightmares” of that time in her life, Phan said. “When you go with the evil, you need to become evil, otherwise you will not survive.”

“In confession, I say, ‘God, I did a lot of evil things when I was in Vietnam before. I ask for forgiveness.’”

‘God, help me raise the kids’

Phan was able to get out of Vietnam and make her way to the United States, but her family was “very, very poor.”

They did have shelter — two bedrooms for all of them, Phan recalled. “I prayed: ‘God, help me raise the kids.’”

In the U.S., Phan was able to go back to school to become a certified nurse. She raised her children here, and they have raised their own children.

That’s why “I kept my promise to God, to serve him,” she said.

Phan says she “lives poor,” and has no need for fancy things.

“We have shelter, we have food to eat, we have clothes. That’s enough,” she said. “We are so blessed.”

In her semi-retirement, Phan said she had a vision to volunteer for people who were dying. That led her to Providence Hospice.

Phan would respond to calls at 9 p.m. or 10 p.m. if a patient was close to death. “I will go right away,” she said.



“I don’t want a patient to die before I see them.”

Her role was to sit at the bedside and maybe comfort loved ones who aren’t sure what to do.

“Sometimes the patients are not Christian, not Catholic. We respect that,” Phan said. “But inside my heart, I pray.”

It was God, Phan said, who led her to the prison ministry at Monroe. She visited for Friday night Mass, sometimes just sharing her beliefs and praying. She also provided hospice care in the fourth-floor hospital ward; she said families weren’t allowed there, so she visited inmates to comfort them.

“Van was very faithful in coming every Friday evening,” recalled Al Larpenteur, a member of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Woodinville who was the Catholic chaplain at Monroe back then. The inmates, he said, “valued her presence and attention.”

Phan said she taught the inmates how to pray. “I tell them just three (things): ‘Jesus, I love you, have mercy on me and save my soul.’ I say, ‘You keep saying that. You are not alone in here.’”

She says she has witnessed miracles through her work, like the inmate in hospice who said one night his cell grew really bright and he saw Jesus. The man told Phan, “I don’t want to be here. I want to go with him.”

‘Help us to see you in them’

Back in Everett, the MercyWatch crew is almost out of sandwiches, so they decide to finish the night visiting some common faces outside an auto parts store.

Emerging from the van, Phan walks toward a tent and some belongings set up against the store wall.

“Hi, Russ! Food for you,” she calls out.

But the man she knows as Russ is walking into traffic on Rucker Avenue, shouting unintelligibly.

It’s a reminder of earlier in the night, before loading into the van, when Phan led the group of volunteers in prayer.

“Jesus, help us to find our brothers and sisters in need,” she said. “Help us to see you in them.” ✚



CALIFORNIA COURT CELEBRATES 95 YEARS

Mass was celebrated by Court Chaplain Rev. Jim Anderson at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church for the 95th Anniversary of Court Santa Maria #1079, Santa Maria, California. Among those in attendance were California State Regent Maria Santos-Silva, Second Vice State Regent Sheri Kanagawa, State Secretary Yvonne Connolly, California Past State Regent Rosemarie Thomson and District Deputy Reba Montoya. Fifty-three members from local courts were there for the occasion, including Court San Luis Obispo #162, Obispo; Court Santa Barbara #293, Santa Barbara; and Court La Purisima #1267, Lompoc. Attendees can be seen in the photo, including members of Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard in the back row.



NEW MEXICO COURT CELEBRATES 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Instituted on October 3, 1938, Court Our Lady of Fatima #1293, Roswell, New Mexico, is the second oldest court in New Mexico. Court members honored their 85th anniversary by attending Mass concelebrated by Court Chaplain Father Ephraim Ezulike, Father Jaroslaw Nowacki and Father Larry Bernard. Special guests were New Mexico State Regent Rosie Duran, Second Vice State Regent Priscilla Bustos and State Secretary Bernadette Garcia. Following Mass members, family and guests enjoyed a delicious catered meal at the Parish Hall. The celebration concluded with Philomena Luiz reading a prayer entitled "Lovely Lady Dressed in Blue" and attendees singing "Song of Mary." Officers and court members can be seen in the photo dressed in white with clergy in the back row.



TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

Court Queen of All Apostles #2258 in Houston, Texas, with 90 members, enjoyed their 40th Anniversary with a meeting and special dinner. The room was festively decorated in purple and gold with a delicious Italian dinner served. Member service was acknowledged with service pins. Reverend Father Wayne Wilkerson, Pastor and Court Chaplain, Parochial Vicar, Reverend, Peter Wood both expressed their heartfelt congratulations on the milestone of 4 decades of service. They stated that Catholic Daughters are needed more than ever right now! Members were encouraged to pray, reflect on our past and bright future, and to be intentional as we each fulfill the role of a Catholic Daughter. District Deputy, Antonia Ledesma and First Vice State Regent Mary Jane Albert were in attendance and First Vice State Regent Mary Jane Albert presented the Court with a Certificate for 40 years of Service to the Church, Community and State. She read aloud a meaningful letter from our State Regent, Carolyn Ritchey. The Court was gifted with Mass Cards from all the Texas State Officers. Celebrating court members can be seen in the photo.



GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FOR TEXAS COURT

Court St. John the Baptist #2073 Alvin, Texas, celebrated the Court's 50th Anniversary on June 3, 2023, and awarded 26 anniversary pins. Eleven members received five-year pins, three received ten-year, three received 15-year, two received 20-year, two received 25 year and five received 50-year pins. "This represented 26 members with 470 total years of service!" Mary Montague explained. "The five fifty-year pins were awarded to charter members, two of whom can be seen in the picture, Teresa Flores, left, and Georgia DeWitt."



PENNSYLVANIA COURT CELEBRATES 70 YEARS

Court Washington #1651, Washington, Pennsylvania, celebrated its 70th anniversary with Mass celebrated by Pastor Reverend Edward Yuhas assisted by Spiritual Advisor Deacon Jeff Hirst. Following Mass, a dinner was held at the Washington Elks. Don Shaw, Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus Council #1083, expressed his gratitude “to be associated and partnered with such a fine group of Catholic women who are true role models for our mission as part of the ‘Church Alive.’ In the photo, left to right, Past Pennsylvania State Regent Peg Witas, Banner Bearers Linda Kubacka and Sarah Bagay, Treasurer Laraine McGinnis, Recording Secretary Denise Morris, Deacon Jeff Hirst, Reverend Edward Yuhas, State Regent Margaret Giordano, Regent Denise Quayle, Vice Regent Andrea Alderson, Financial Secretary Pam Bamberger and District Deputy Debbie Genemore.



WASHINGTON, DC COURT HONORS CHARTER MEMBERS

Court Our Lady of the Americas #2344, Washington, DC, celebrated its 32nd anniversary by issuing a Proclamation acknowledging CDA Sunday and honoring their charter members. Four of the eight living charter members are home-bound: Ernestine Anderson, Gloria Payne, Norma Vincent and Dorothy Waring; four others were able to attend the celebration and are seated in the front row in the photo of court members gathered behind their proclamation. They are, from left to right, Sara Teneyck, Marjorie Knight, Hazel Ballard and Joan Tillery.



FORTY-FIVE YEARS CELEBRATED BY TEXAS COURT

Court of Angels #2181, Portland, Texas, celebrated their 45th Anniversary with Mass followed by a meal and fellowship. “Our Chaplain Reverend Piotr Koziel, STL celebrated our Anniversary Mass,” Nancy McCary said. “Texas State Treasurer Janet Purdy was in attendance as well as Texas Past State Regents Rosie Stockwell and Eve Trevino.” The attached photo of officers in their robes and members resplendent in white was taken after Mass.



CENTENNIAL FOR LOUISIANA COURT

Court Isabella #809, Morganza, Louisiana, joyfully celebrated its Centennial Anniversary. Court members can be seen in the photo within the beautiful church with Mass concelebrants at the top, Court Chaplain Rev. Babu Vareeth, Very Rev. Jamin David, Rev. Brent Maher and Rev. Cleo Milano.



NEW YORK COURT HONORS 75 YEARS

Court Morrissey #1477, Fort Edward, New York celebrated its 75th anniversary. Celebrating court officers and members can be seen in the photo.



CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY FOR TEXAS COURT

Court Sacred Heart #829, West, Texas, honored its 100th anniversary with Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend Joe Vasquez, Bishop of Austin, Texas. Following Mass, a wine reception was held at the West Knights of Columbus Hall. Members were presented with a special lapel pin to commemorate the Court's 100 years. Twenty ladies who had been members for 50 years or more were presented with a corsage along with the lapel pin. "The celebration was to honor all the current members and their mothers, grandmothers and great grandmothers who have kept this Court alive for 100 years," Cheryl Hoelscher of the Centennial Committee explained. "The theme used throughout the celebration was to recall the past and all the events and challenges the charter members had faced." To close the evening banquet, Court Chaplain Reverend Timothy Vaverek, spoke about the significance of the anniversary and blessed everyone attending. In the photo are court members with more than 50 years of service, front row, Rose Kubacak, Geraldine Laubert, Lucille Lednicki, Mary Ann Cocek, Lillian Filer and Margaret Kennedy. Back row, Dolores Sykora, Jo Ann Maynard, Annette Phipps, Dorothy Nichols, Georgia Kapczynski, Margaret Webre, Joyce Dulock, Jo Ann Wolf, Marcella Sinkule, Lillie Mynar and Libbie Veselka. Not pictured but attending, Laurann Grimm, Marie Popp, Shirley Svrcek and Dorothy Kucera.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FOR VIRGINIA COURT

Court of Redeemer's Angels #2456, Mechanicsville, Virginia, celebrated its 25th Anniversary with Mass at Church of the Redeemer in Mechanicsville celebrated by Virginia State Court Chaplain Father Ramon Baez and concelebrated by Father Jim Cowles. After Mass, court members and their guests shared a catered lunch. Pictured are, first row, National Director Brenda West Virginia State Regent Yvonne Bell-Kennedy, Second Vice State Regent Chris Lippman and District Deputy and Charter Member Eileen Dumansky. Second row, Mary Atkinson, Regent Marilynn Alfaro, Treasurer Charlotte Martin, Secretary Rosemary Gilhooly and Vice Regent Linda Gay. Third row, Father Cowles, Pat McCarthy, Betsy Mayr, Lorraine Ross, Charter Member Jane Castelveccchi, Lisa Rider, Dona Davis, Charter Member Jo Ann Bonelli and Father Baez. Fourth row, Mary Glotzl, Molly Maloney, Sharon Seifert, Kathy Massino, Terry Delvecchio, Kay Crawford, Chris Hanks, Roberta Hunt, Charter Member Barbara Gerloff and Court Chaplain Deacon Chris Colville. Back row, Betty Kelley, Shirley Husz, Charter Member Judy Adkins, Colleen Coningsby, Sue Hunrath, LaRue Sprouse, Charter Member Wendy Roos, Barbara Hayek, Debbie Wilmoth, Monica Radakovich, Claudia Saunders, Nikki Winter and Kathy Donohue.



MARYLAND COURT CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Members of Court St. Joseph #2300, Sykesville, Maryland, celebrated their 35th Anniversary in June. There were special guests from the Maryland State Board along with 80 court members attending. "A committee worked for several months to archive our last 35 years with pictures and memorabilia," Regent Clare Wieber explained. "Everyone enjoyed looking at tri-fold boards and albums of the past 35 years. The charter members spoke about the history of our court and how it was started. The catered event was enjoyed by all." Anniversary celebrants can be seen gathered for a photo.



NEBRASKA COURT CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ON CDA SUNDAY

Court St. Michael #697, O'Neill, Nebraska, celebrated a very special Catholic Daughters Sunday last year. Regent Linda Schneider explains. "Our court was instituted on May 27, 1923. We chose to celebrate this 100-year milestone on CDA Sunday, October 15, 2023. We gathered for Mass and then were the honored guests at a reception hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Our special guest was Nebraska's Second Vice Regent Janet Macklin." In the photo, front row, left to right, Jozette Kozicek, Patricia Selting, Nancy Derickson, Nancy Berg, Janice Welch, Suzanne Moss, Janet Macklin, Barbara Myers, Dawn Schneider, Natalie Butterfield and Mary Mlnarik. Second row, left to right, Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock, Carole Willis, Leona Walters, Toni Schneider, Luann Shields, Jodi Loecker, Pauline Waldo, Kelli Tomjack and Lisa Connot.



NORTH DAKOTA COURT CELEBRATES 111 YEARS

Members of Court St. Elizabeth #170, Minot, North Dakota, celebrated their 111th anniversary as the first and oldest court in North Dakota. "Our ice cream social gathering was fun, with old memories shared and new memories made," Regent Ali Coleman said. "Our membership is now 50 Catholic Daughters. We missed all of you who could not join us. Please know that we prayed for you and ask that we pray for each other daily. It is a blessing to hold the title of Regent. Thank you to all the officers and members as we continue to recruit new members and share our time, talents and treasures." Anniversary celebrators can be seen in the photo.



NEW JERSEY COURT CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

The home parish of Court St. Elizabeth #486, St Elizabeth's Church, Avon-by-the-Sea, New Jersey was merged with the parish of Ascension Church in the adjoining town of Bradley Beach to form the new parish of St. Theresa of Calcutta with two 'worship sites' St. Elizabeth's Church and Ascension Church. The court name remained as Court St. Elizabeth #1486 and on Sunday, October 15th, celebrated their 75th Anniversary with a Brunch at The Breakers in Spring Lake. In the photo, back row, Betty Ryan, Diane Smith, Madeline Hamilton, Maryann Jasaitis, Eileen Comer, Pat Leonard, Guest Speaker Former New Jersey Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno and Event Chair Pat Gillen. Seated, Suzanne Begley.



LOUISIANA COURT CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY ON CDA SUNDAY

Court St. Catherine Labouré #2701, French Settlement, Louisiana, celebrated both CDA Sunday and its eighth anniversary at Mass on October 15, 2023. Members pictured (note the bright, beaming smiles at the happy occasion!), left to right, back row, Amy Millet, Sophie Marchand, Bre Davis and Sandra Watts. Front row, Vicki McCoy, Frances Cambre, Lauren Bahlinger, Jeanette Lewis, Louisiana State Chaplain Rev. Jason Palermo, Debra Jo Thornton, Cynthia Kilcrease, Jamie LeBourgeois and Amanda Cutrer.



NEBRASKA COURT HELPS KIDS WITH CANCER

Court Queen of Angels #2253, Fremont, Nebraska, sponsored a free will donation bake sale. The money raised was presented to Dave Vyhlidal who represented Camp Quality, which offers comfort to young cancer patients, and, according to its website, “We strive to provide the safest, most enjoyable environment for our campers away from the everyday stresses of their diagnoses. We provide 24-hour, on site, medical care to make sure campers are taken care of while still being afforded the opportunity to just be kids.” The court made over \$1,000 for the camp. In the photo court members Jeanne Boesch and Dottie Buer are seen presenting the check to Dave.



TEXAS COURT HELPS SEAFARERS

Court of the Cross #2374, Humble, Texas, prepared 71 shoeboxes for Seafarers. The shoeboxes contained an assortment of toiletries, prayer cards, writing materials and other items. “The shoeboxes were distributed at the Seafarer’s Union meeting during the Christmas season,” Financial Secretary Virginia Eckert said. “This is an annual event for our court, and we select four members to attend the luncheon that is celebrated with the Cardinal of the Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston.” In the photo, court members stand behind a colorful array of shoeboxes they prepared.



TEXAS COURT WARMS THOSE IN NEED

Court Sacred Heart of Mother Teresa #2570, Flatonia, Texas, donated \$75 to the Flatonia Lions Club for the Heater/Blanket Drive that was held November 1st through December 13. Publicity Chairman Carol Barta explains, “Distribution was held on Thursday, December 14th, at Celebration House. Donations were accepted to help families in need with new heaters and new blankets.” Pictured, front row, Jeanette Zouzalik, Regent Isabel Garcia, Lions Club President Liz Miller, Treasurer Karen Novak and Rev. Eddie Winkler; back row, Lucy Manzano, Jenn Brown, Beverly Ponder, Gretchen Zapalac, Vice Regent Janet Stanley, Pam Svatek, Naomi Espinosa, Julia Webster and District Deputy Kathleen Svatek. Photo by David Zapalac.



CALIFORNIA COURT HOLDS MAMMOGRAM SCREENING

On November 11th at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church, Court Compton #942, Compton, California, hosted their second free mammogram screening event for women without health insurance. It was a very successful event with 24 women screened. Court Compton and JCDA members, seen in the photo with Deacon Alberto Reyes in front of the screening truck, volunteered to greet, provide refreshments and assist with the application process.



CALIFORNIA COURT SUPPORTS FIRE VICTIMS

Court St. John #2526, Fresno, California, donated \$1,000 to Vicente and Maria Garza who had a terrible fire that burned down their meeting room where retreats and other faith-based organizational events took place. “The court is hoping this donation will help with their building expenses,” Recording Secretary Mary V. Harguindeguy, said, adding, “Hope rises from the ashes.” In the photo court members can be seen with the Garzas.



WISCONSIN COURT SUPPORTS SEMINARIANS

Members of Court Ave Maria #1011, Appleton, Wisconsin, met with Most Rev. David Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay, Wisconsin, to present him with a check for seminarians. In the photo, left to right, Regent Jo Hammen, Bishop Ricken, and Court Treasurer Barb Rogers. Participating in the seminarian donation but unable to attend was Jeanne Austad, Regent of Court Pere Marquette #1058, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin.



LOUISIANA COURT LIFTS UP SEAMEN

Court Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #2165, New Orleans, Louisiana, filled 100 bags of personal care items for the Stella Maris Maritime Center in Destrehan, Louisiana. Past Louisiana State Regent Trisha Crombie explains. “These men and women are away from their families during the holidays, and our bags are a welcomed token of joy that lift up the seamen while they are hard at work.” Pictured from left to right are Rosemary Evans, Alice Lowe, Callie Fouquet, Denise Tague, Martha Davis, Kim Ranson and District Deputy Linda Herrick.



BABY SHOWER BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Patricia #195, Newburgh, New York, celebrated its annual baby shower on November 8, 2023, with items donated to the Vincent De’ Paul Society also located in Newburgh. “The Vincent De’ Paul Society helps new mothers and their babies with needed items that they sometimes cannot afford to purchase,” Regent Annie Ryan explained. “These include diapers, wipes, lotions, layette sets, etc. Some members even crochet beautiful outfits and sweaters.” Court members can be seen in the photo around a table with the generous gifts from the baby shower.



BLANKET MAKING PROJECT FOR MARYLAND COURT

Members and guests of Court St. Louis #2579, Clarksville, Maryland, made hand-tied fleece blankets for homeless children living temporarily with a Catholic Charities outreach program. Regent Carol Derenge explains, "This event was open to parishioners as a way for women to work together on a service project and learn about the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Several women sewed labels on the blankets so each child would have their own blanket. Lunch, including homemade cookies, was available for all participants. Over 50 blankets were made and donated to Catholic Charities." Smiling participants can be seen in the photo.



CALIFORNIA COURT CHEERS HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Members of Court Our Lady of Peace #1306, San Bernardino, California, wrote notecards to in-patients at St. Bernardine's Hospital to cheer and comfort them during their hospitalization. "Regent Olivia Guerrero provided the blank notecards and a variety of stickers to affix to the cards," Newsletter Reporter Eva Garcia explained. "Olivia's family also participated in writing cards. Our guidelines were to wish them healing and comfort during this difficult time with a prayer and a blessing by gifting them with a lovely, caring sentiment. Our spirits were lifted by writing these happy notes for our patients. God is Good." In the photo Gloria Siliezar, left, and Claudia Doyle, pause from their notecard writing to smile for the camera.



CHEMO CARE BAGS BY COLORADO COURT

Court Daughters of St. Elizabeth #2785, Longmont, Colorado, put together 31 Chemo Care Bags that were delivered to the Rocky Mountain Cancer Center in Longmont. The Care Bags were beautifully decorated by children and contained items such as socks, hand warmers, hand sanitizers, prayer cards, encouragement pins, prayer booklets and hard candy. Barbara Loomis, who delivered the bags, said the staff was SO appreciative. Pictured stuffing the bags, left to right, Julie Cross, Patti West, Barbara Shepperd, Barbara Loomis, Laura Bolinger, Pauline Higgins and Donna Spence.



MISSISSIPPI COURT HELPS SCHOOL

Court St. Paul the Apostle #2762, Tylertown, Mississippi, responded to the community need for school supplies requested by Robin Duncan, M.Ed., Walthall County School District's Parent and Community Engagement Coordinator. Seen in the photo with much-needed school supplies gifted to the school are Cindy Rome, Robin Duncan and Karen Kinler.



NORTH CAROLINA COURT SUPPORTS THE MILITARY

November is the month that Court Durham #1576, Durham, North Carolina, honors veterans and active military. Vice Regent Sue Harris describes the project. “We began with a retired female Air Force Lt. Col. as speaker at our monthly meeting. We held a Saturday work party to sign and address over 250 homemade greeting cards. These were delivered to the Durham VA Hospital for Veteran’s Day, Christmas and throughout the year. Our homemade cookies were delivered to the USO (United Service Organizations) at Raleigh Durham International Airport. The USO is one of our North Carolina State Projects.” The photo shows some of the homemade greeting cards prepared by the court.



SCHOOLCHILDREN HELPED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Mother Cabrini #1422, El Paso, Texas, conducted a backpack and school supply giveaway. The court donated and received contributions from the community of backpacks and various school supplies. Families from Our Lady of Assumption church were encouraged to contact the parish office to have a backpack filled with supplies reserved for their child or children. Pick-up was on Sept 21, and free haircuts were given to boys and girls by a local hairdresser. While waiting, families could enjoy a snack of cookies, chips, water and capri suns. “A total of approximately 150 backpacks were collected for all school age students,” Sandra Imperial explains. “They were filled with supplies such as pencils, spiral notebooks, crayons, rulers, folders, pencil cases, erasers, scissors, composition notebooks and a variety of other supplies. The backpack giveaway was a joyful success measured by the smiles from children and parents.” In the photo, front row, left to right, Mari Herrera, Veronica Serrano, Ruth Medina, Elvia Loweree, Elaine Williams, Sandra Martinez, Sandra Imperial, Yolie Zapata, Carmen Bethany and Veronica Granado. Back row, left to right, Susan Danley, Ana Elena Allen, Elizabeth Felix and Liz Ort.



BABY SHOWER BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Columbia #248, Hudson, New York, held their baby shower at the Alight Center in Hudson. “The Alight Center provides unplanned pregnancy services and solutions including free consultations, ultrasounds, abortion info, testing and more,” Financial Secretary Candace Lansing explained. “This is a yearly tradition that our court looks forward to celebrating local moms and babies.” In the photo, court members gather around the plethora of wonderful gifts donated for the Center.



ALASKA COURT LEADS ROSARY NOVENA

Members of Court St. Pius X #1866, Anchorage, Alaska, participated in the annual novena to the Lord of Miracles by leading the Rosary for the fourth day at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Vice Regent Cecelia Stanley explains, "Each year in October a novena is celebrated with prayer, song, speakers, and culminating with a special Mass and procession. The feast was first celebrated in Lima, Peru in 1655 to venerate an image of Christ crucified which survived several earthquakes in the 1600's. It is one of the oldest Catholic traditions in Peru and was introduced to our Court by two of our newest members, who are originally from Peru." Pictured standing from left to right are members Marcia Adkins, Noel Danielson, Patty Whited, Financial Secretary Edna Resari, Linda Fleener, Regent Angela Moran, Terrie Peterson, Mary Rapp, Shirley Jerue, and Angelina Niessner. Front row, Sandy Ortaegui-Hunt and Cecilia Stanley.



FATIMA SUPPORTED BY NEW MEXICO COURT

Members of Court San Miguel #2730, Socorro, New Mexico, hosted and participated in their second annual Praying the Rosary for America. "Millions across America pray the Rosary at 12:00 p.m. on October 14, 2023," Linda Landavazo said. "Court members joined Our Legion of Mary, San Miguel Youth Group and Knights of Columbus working together to host this event. There were over 90 participants, 25 more than last year. There was a strong spiritual connection with the participants as we joined our nation in praying for America and the world."



PILGRIMAGE BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Members of Court St. Raymond #2057, Dublin, California, joined a Summer CDA of 2023 Pilgrimage that included a beautiful tour of St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park with a walk through the gardens featuring the Stations of the Cross and Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto (pictured). Sylvia Owen San Miguel-Hill adds, "We were joined by California State Spiritual Director Fr. Erick Villa and court-sponsored Seminarian Rodolfo Quinteros, who shared their personal experiences while they were attending the seminary. We shared a potluck lunch in fellowship and prayed the Patriotic Rosary in the newly refurbished chapel." Pilgrims can be seen standing at the Grotto with Father Villa in the foreground.



NORTH DAKOTA COURT SUPPORTS HOME ASSISTANCE

Members of Court Saint Ann, #261, Fargo, North Dakota, volunteered at Down Home, a local organization that furnishes homes for those less fortunate. Volunteers received a tour of the facility and made cards that go into the welcome baskets given to the families Down Home helps. Over 60 cards were made. Pictured behind the table of newly created cards, left to right, are Frances Gilroy, Rayetta Senn, Peggy Motschenbacher, North Dakota Second Vice State Regent Deb Johnson, Patty Landman and Vice Regent Kayla Mehrer Landman.



ARIZONA WELCOMES NEW COURT

Court St. Michael the Archangel #2796, Florence, Arizona, was instituted on November 11, 2023. Pictured in beautiful white from left to right are Arizona State Regent and Presiding Officer, Lorrie Holland; Recording Secretary Debra Seivert; Vice Regent Terry Ybarra; Regent Alma Mellinger; Tonja Mellinger, Proxy for Financial Secretary Maggie Martinez; Treasurer Gracie Ramirez; and Second Vice State Regent, Carolyn Larson. Congratulations and welcome to the new Catholic Daughters!



CDA SUNDAY CELEBRATED BY ARIZONA COURT

Court Daughters of St. Anthony #2651, Casa Grande, Arizona, celebrated CDA Sunday with a Corporate Communion Mass at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Casa Grande. In the photo, left to right, first row, Treasurer Anita Copeland, Recording Secretary Bernadette Smith, Ann Foley, Mercy Kromer, District Deputy Jordan Taillon, District Deputy Mary Peoples, Cindy Hyatt, Carol Moreno and Janet Sanders. Left to right, second row, Judy Sellmeyer, Vice Regent June Nunnink, Rama Cimino, Chrissie Jenkins, Court Chaplain Father Jesus Gomez, RaeDean Weinberger, Laurie Hoffman, Mercy Murrietta, Rita Rossman and Stephanie Perez.



ART FAIR BY WISCONSIN COURT

Court La Crosse #1183, La Crosse Wisconsin, hosted an Art Fair on August 26, 2023, with 23 vendors, a silent auction, food, drinks, a bake sale and an ice cream social to help fund the court's Priests and Seminarians Education Fund. A check for \$3,000.00 was presented to Father Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocations at the court's November 9th meeting. Father gave an interesting presentation on his work with the Priests and Seminarians. Pictured from left to right, Sandra Borreson, Education Circle Chairman; Pat Thompson, Father Nate Kuhn and Regent Therese Boisvert.



CALIFORNIA COURTS HELP OLDEST COURT IN THE STATE

Kathi Morris, Charter Regent for Court Divine Mercy, #2753, Central California, was recently appointed as District Deputy for three California courts in Monterey Bay. When she learned that one of her courts, Court Salinas #686, Salinas, California, which is 102 years old, was in danger of disbanding, she enlisted CDA sisters to come to their aid. Although it required 175 miles travel, no one hesitated to travel the distance to share their knowledge. Kathi also organized a social, raffle, and potluck allowing the courts to meet and bond with one another. An icebreaker using M&M peanuts revealed interesting tidbits about families, travels and hobbies with belly laughs as collateral. In the photo, Kathi Morris stands proudly with her California CDA Sisters who pitched in to help the struggling court.



ILLINOIS COURTS SUPPORT ARCHBISHOP SHEEN

Court St. Petronille #1096, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, sponsored a pilgrimage to St. Mary's Cathedral and the Archbishop Fulton Sheen Museum in Peoria. Court St. Petronille was joined by members of Court West #432, West, Chicago, and other friends. Pilgrims attended Mass at the Cathedral and then went to the Museum, with the idea that, "We prayed where he prayed and walked where he walked." The Archbishop's cause for Canonization is underway. Pictured is the group following Mass at the Cathedral.



IOWA COURT VISITS CATHEDRAL

Court Queen of Peace #390 of Jefferson, Iowa sponsored a day trip to Sioux City on September 12, 2023. Parishioners and others were invited to accompany the CDA members to attend a noon Mass celebrated by Fr. Jeremy Wind at the Cathedral of the Epiphany. After Mass, the attendees enjoyed an interesting tour of the Cathedral and the Adoration Chapel led by Fr. Wind. The group toured the Queen of Peace/Trinity Heights shrine in the afternoon. In the photo taken in front of the altar at the Cathedral of the Epiphany, front row, left to right, Lucy Wolterman, Marilyn Gano, Ellie Thornton, Tracy Engel, Paula Shriver and Iowa State Regent Suzanne Torrey. Middle row, Jonathan Smith, Sue Taylor, Sue Wind and Sue Espinoza. Top row: Jan Schrunk, Fr. Jeremy Wind and Andy Geisler.



MASS FOR CDA SUNDAY CELEBRATED BY IOWA COURT

Court Sacred Heart #408, Spencer, Iowa, celebrated CDA Sunday with a Mass in which court members participated as lector, cantor, sound system operator, greeters, gift bearers, eucharistic ministers and leader of the Rosary. Pictured, front row, left to right, Linda Koppen, Macrina Tesch, Margaret Molitor, Shirley Selzer, Financial Secretary Ann Spooner, Treasurer Candi Whittenburg, Barb Phillips, Trudy Elbert and Diane Mullenberg. Second row, Pat Juza, Sheila Currans, Therese Trojahn, Sue Crabtree, Mary Raveling, Mary O'Brien, Terry Gruhn, Betty Kaschmitter, Sharon Gude, Shirley O'Connor, Marcelline Seivert, Sue Eilers, Recording Secretary Lois McCarty and Regent Monica Johannsen. Third row, Court Chaplain Fr. Kevin Richter, Renee Juza, Mary Reissner, Mary Nelson, Pat Monnahan, Bonnie Swart, Traci Hynes, Jenny Reis, Jamie Lair and Deacon Frank Boever.



"PARTEA" ENJOYED BY LOUISIANA COURT

Court St. Bridget of Sweden #2461, Schriever, Louisiana, sponsored "A Fanciful Tea" in St. Bridget's Community Life Center where about 85 court members enjoyed an afternoon of fancy dress-up, delicious food and dainties, fun games and several door prizes. The proceeds from this fundraising event provided financial help with several of the court's local, state and national projects. Seen in the photo with the decorative "Par Tea" banner are committee members who joyfully worked on this beautifully decorated successful event and court members, standing, left to right, Sharon Pollet, Treasurer Kylie Kern, Financial Secretary Bernadette Mabile and Recording Secretary Bridget McElroy. Seated, Vice Regent Faie Duplantis and Nina Billiot.



LOUISIANA COURT CREATES SPIRITUAL SKIT

Court St. Rose de Lima #1194, St. Amant, Louisiana, created a highly enjoyable skit with a strong spiritual message. Entitled "The Sin Chair," it featured the devil trying to tempt ladies to choose drugs or money to solve their problems. Instead, when a nun brings out the Holy Bible and encourages them to read it, their problems such as greed, pride and hatred turn into generosity, humility and love. The skit was performed at the Talent After Dark Show, which was part of the church fair at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church in St. Amant. The skit's positive message about the power of faith was a big hit with fair goers, winning second place and the People's Choice Award in the talent competition. The cast, in the photo, Monica Fauchaux, Bettye Lambert, Estelle Babin, Deborah Heath, Laurie Gautreaux, Rebecca Tambling, Madelyn Fazio and Sandy Hack.



CDA SUNDAY WORSHIP BY LOUISIANA COURT

Members of Court Padre Pio #214, Cottonport, Louisiana, celebrated CDA Sunday by attending Mass together. Members wore their purple stoles, processed into the church behind their CDA banner and sat together as a group. In the photo, court members, first row, left to right, Mary Marchand, Diane Poret, Josie Poret, Sandy Ducote, Charlene Riche, Vice Regent Sharon Juneau and Regent Vickie Mayeux. Second row, left to right, Kinta Moreau, Carmel Dupuy, Becky Rozas, Sylvia Armand, Becky Laborde and Brenda Ducote. Third row, Priscilla Brouillette, Sue White, Treasurer Colleen Armand, Kathy McDonald, Margaret Ducote, Kathy Joffrion and Aimee Richardson. Fourth row, Louella Moreau, Pat Hukins, Carol Tassin and Nita Brouillette. Back left is Deacon Doug Moreau and back right is Court Chaplain Fr. Charles Ray ("Fr. Charlie").



NEW YORK COURT CELEBRATES MASS ON CDA SUNDAY

Members of Court Nativity of Our Lady #931, Brockport, New York, gathered for Mass on CDA Sunday on a beautiful autumn day in their court city of Brockport. Members participated as lectors, greeters, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Pictured are Donna Glogowski, Karen Sweeting, Dawn Rejewski, Mary Daniels, Sandy Fortunato, Sue Parrino, Charilla Conner and Diane MacEwan.



RANDOM ACTS BY MINNESOTA COURT

Court St. Bernard #886, Lismore, Minnesota, was inspired to do random acts of kindness, thanks to an idea gleaned from a court project members read about in SHARE magazine. Deb Lutmer explains. "Members placed labels on candy bars to be distributed to random individuals. The candy bar labels had various uplifting messages such as, 'Today is a good day to have a good day,'" or 'May you have a day filled with smiles and blessings.' The gals had also planned to wear flannel shirts to their meeting just for fun; it turned out they were glad they did as the meeting room was very chilly that night!" Pictured are Brenda Lynn, Mary Metz, Avis Stoffel, Julie Brake, Lydia Diekmann, Mindy Kemper, Roxanne Kemper, Ellen Henning, Deb Lutmer and Donna Dew.



ASSISTED LIVING RECEIVES VISIT FROM MONTANA COURT

Court St. Mary #645, Livingston, Montana, spent 'Make a Difference Day' visiting homebound members and those residing at Caslen's Assisted Living. Each resident was personally seen in their room where they were blessed and gifted with a single rose. In the photo Court Regent Jo Ann Harper and Vice Regent Joannie Lee present a 50-year CDA pin to resident Virginia O'Hara.



MISSISSIPPI COURT SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITY

Court Our Lady Star of the Sea, #2767, Biloxi, Mississippi, supports Sacred Heart Southern Missions in Walls, which has been a safety net for individuals and families since 1942. Their six social service offices provide emergency assistance (food, clothing and utilities), skills development, advocacy and counseling for people living in poverty within their service area. "Because SHSM addresses so many of the spokes on the Circle of Love," Charlotte Randazzo said, "our court has chosen this worthy cause as our charity to nurture and support." In the photo, left to right, court members Charlotte Randazzo, Elsie Raymond, Dorothy Nehlig and Renee McDaniel stand in front of Sacred Heart Southern Missions. Photo credit: court member Dorothy Nehlig.



NEBRASKA COURT COMFORTS THE ELDERLY

Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2737, Chadron, Nebraska, brings the "Hand to Heart" program to the Crestview Nursing Home each month to visit and care for the elders in residence there by massaging lotion onto their hands. In the photo are court members who visited the nursing home Catherine Smith, Dannette Rotherham, Francis Gonzales, Amy Hency and Gloria Hale.



NATIONAL ROSARY JOINED BY NEBRASKA COURT

Members of Court Our Lady of Fatima, #1549, North Platte, Nebraska, joined The National Rosary, prayed by people across the United States, at Elizabeth Ann Seton's Church at noon on October 14. Fr. Joe Kadapravil, Sr. Associate Priest from St. Patrick's Catholic Church, led court members and others in the Rosary. In the photo, participants hold a banner to end abortion. The group sang "Happy Birthday" to Fr. Joe at the end of the service.



LIVING ROSARY BY LOUISIANA COURT

During the month of October Court St Paul #1434, Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, prayed a Living Rosary in their Holy Family Prayer Garden around a life size rosary. The court and several members from the St. Bernard Parish family participated. In the photo participants can be seen at the event.



TEXAS COURT HONORS CDA SUNDAY

Members of Court St. Bernadette #1108, East Bernard, Texas, pause for a picture after attending Mass together in celebration of CDA Sunday. The court participated in the Mass as lector, EME, ushers, gift bearers and musicians. Regent Karen Rejsek invited ladies of the parish to become Catholic Daughters. After Mass members of a committee from the court served donuts, juice and coffee to the parishioners.



NEBRASKA COURT WELCOMES HOMELESS CHILDREN

Members of Court Our Lady of Faith #2604, Omaha, Nebraska, completed 50 Welcome Bags for children entering homeless shelters. This project has been an annual Court service project for 12 years. "The ladies prepared fringed fleece blankets, then added cuddly stuffed animals, crocheted caps, and books to fill all the bags," Regent Shirley Simons explained, "The colorful bags were gratefully received by the Lydia House staff where some bags were immediately given to children in the shelter." Pictured from left to right, front row: Linda Isaacson, Vice Regent; Mary Jo Leahy; Connie Chapman; Barb Clark. Middle row: Connie Lieting; Karen Dowdy; Dorothy Wahrman; Louise Vodenhal; Grace Albers. Back row: Maureen Rose; Melissa Soto; Colleen Haack, Recording Secretary; Karen Roth, Treasurer; Nancy Schulte; Lori Weis; Fran Traynor; Theresa Roarty.



CDA SUNDAY CELEBRATED BY PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Representative members of Court Doyle #932, Coudersport, Pennsylvania, celebrated CDA Sunday. "Our court members took advantage of the opportunity to meet after Mass for a group picture," Betty Wallace explained. "We stood at the altar after the proclamation, which was read and signed, and is being held by our Pastor and Court Chaplain Father Chris Wheeler. In the photo, row 1, Bea Sonnekalb and Julia Kolat. Row 2, Cathy Collins, Karen Haskins, Teresa Kisiel, Claire Head and Betty Wallace. Row 3, Recording Secretary Bonnie Healy, Megan Taylor, Father Wheeler, Nancy Weber and Regent Gloria Richardson.



CDA DAY CELEBRATED BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Holy Rosary #2341, Greenwood Lake, New York, celebrated Catholic Daughter Day and held its annual Spiritual Adoption Shower on the same day. The court received over 300 baby items which will be distributed to local families and to Catholic Charities. In the photo, smiling court members stand with baby gifts collected, some hung with a nice touch on a clothesline.



MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY BY TEXAS COURT

Court Immaculate Mary #2134, Angleton, Texas, celebrated Membership Sunday at Most Holy Trinity Church in Angleton. Dee Garza addressed the congregation about the importance of serving church and community. CDA members, JCDA members, Father Khoi, Ms. Garza and members of the church enjoyed a luncheon after Mass at the Live Oak Cafe. Pictured from left to right, front row, Denise Templet, Liana Segovia, Ellie Williams and Emme Williams. Second row, left to right, Dee Garza, Ann Geissen, Father Khoi, Blanca Ochoa, Ava Gamino and Reina Gamino. Back row, left to right, Marguerite Sutton, Morgan Buchta, Gina Aaron, Marissa Aaron, Leslie Segovia, Avery Aaron and Sophia Aaron.



IOWA COURT MEETS ON VOTING NIGHT

Members of Court Bernadette #189, Sheldon, Iowa, gathered for their November meeting on voting night, November 7th. "Members were reminded that they should vote and then attend the CDA meeting where we won't talk politics, but we will wear our red, white and blue," Regent Karen Pottebaum said, "Following the rosary, desserts, and their monthly meeting, the members enjoyed socializing as they made decorative pumpkins using fabric and tissue." Seen in the photo, seated, Janis Chapin, Lorna Blumeyer, Rose Rodger and Carol Schwebach. Standing, Joyce Whitcanack, Mary Jean Nilles, Paula Schwebach, Lori Warnke, Colleen Perry, Carol Parry, Doris Heiliger, Nancy Granstra, Susan McCarty, Julie Stallmann, Gladys Brinkman and Karen Pottebaum.



BINGO NIGHT AT CALIFORNIA COURT

Court St. Joachim, #2553, Madera, California, hosted Bingo for two nights at the Annual Parish Harvest Festival on September 29th and 30th, 2023. There were many door prizes donated by court members and the parish community. A great job was done by chairman Neneng Paat-Stansbury, Regent Victoria Cazaes-Pajarillo and other members. In the photo Court St. Joachim court members are joined by members from Fresno/Clovis courts and the local VFW (Ladies Auxiliary).



CDA SUNDAY CELEBRATED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Our Lady of Peace #2489, Converse, Texas, celebrated CDA Sunday with a beautiful Mass at St. Monica Catholic Church in Converse. In the photo, members are resplendent in white, with court officers in the front, Regent Janet Swanson, Vice Regent Eloisa Peralta, Recording Secretary Melisa Carrasco, Treasurer Natalie Lopez and Financial Secretary Chrysta Colwell.



TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES CDA SUNDAY

Court St. Frances of Assisi #1887, San Antonio, Texas, celebrated CDA Sunday at St. Leo's Church in San Antonio. "Fun Fact," Leticia Flores added, "Our court has members from 11 different parishes." Pictured, left to right, Margaret Moreno, Sulema Mota, Lydia Hernandez, Hope Cano, Isabel Gonzales, Helen Guitierrez, Delores Correra, Amelia Torres, Janie Belletz, Leticia Flores, Isabel Flores and Deacon Mark Luther.



DECEASED MEMBERS PRAYED FOR BY TEXAS COURT

Members of Court Holy Family #2060, Missouri City, Texas and Knights of Columbus Council #7728, remembered their deceased members at a Memorial Mass in November. Father Joy James at Holy Family Catholic Church celebrated the Mass. Assisting at the Mass was Deacon Rafael Sanchez whom the Knights and Catholic Daughters supported prayerfully and monetarily during his deaconate training. Several family members of the deceased were also in attendance. A reception followed the Mass. Pictured from left to right are, front row, Doretta Rychlik, Jo Ann Hargrove, Joann Bowman, Gloria Reed, Brenda Carlyon, Frances Courville, Raquel Shell, Ernestine Frazier, Adelfa Barrera, Delia Ragasa, Olga Longoria and Easter Kirby. Middle row, Jeanette Holloway and Eucharia Inyeng. Top row, Letty Almendariz, Mary Guerrero, Debra Cortez, Barbara Rocha, Martha Halvorsen, Father Joy James, Deacon Rafael Sanchez, Frances Jalomo and Carmen Zamora.



NORTH CAROLINA AT EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Over 5,000 Catholics were welcomed to the 2023 Eucharistic Congress in Raleigh on October 23 to begin the yearlong celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Raleigh. The one-day event began with a Eucharistic procession and Holy Hour led by Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama, followed by keynote speeches, sessions and workshops. The bilingual congress was a day to help people deepen their faith and understanding of the Eucharist. The Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit was displayed and hosted by Court Ave Maria, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. The day concluded with a Vigil Mass. "Our CDA purple was seen everywhere!" North Carolina State Regent Brenda Spizzo said excitedly. "The State Board Officers and many members from our courts around the state helped greet ladies at our table, handed out 'You Are Invited to Join Us' brochures, answered questions and promoted Catholic Daughters. Almost 50 ladies gave us their contact information to hear more about our wonderful organization!" In the photo, left to right, North Carolina State Treasurer Jo MacWilliam, First Vice State Regent Debbie Del Corro El-Chayeb, State Regent Brenda Spizzo and State Secretary Karen Stevens.



ARTS & CRAFTS BY TEXAS COURT

Court Bishop Odin #1758, San Antonio, Texas, held a very successful Arts & Crafts Show. Many items were handmade by court members, who can be seen in the photo: Regent Cinda G. Tapia, Norma Cadengo, Noreen Cadengo, Recording Secretary Martha Zuniga Yolanda Rodriguez, Philomena Martinez (seated), Financial Secretary Esme Ramirez, Elizabeth Fuentes, JoAnn Montecinos and Linda Vasquez. Front, left Norma Cadengo Trinidad. Cinda Tapia added, "Several court members were busy helping customers and didn't make it into the picture."



RAFFLE HELD BY TEXAS COURT

Court Mother of the Americas #2506, Fort Worth, Texas, held a Quilt Raffle during their Bazaar in October in the Saint Peter the Apostle Parish Community Center to raise funds to benefit their many charities. In the photo, standing, left to right, Joan Ford, Laurel Grannan, Maribel Ruiz, Irene Holguin, Celene Angulo and Regent Juliana Sosa-Flores. Seated, Adrian Lopez, left, and Pauline White.



TEXAS COURT HONORS DECEASED MEMBERS

Members of Court Our Lady of Perpetual Help #296, Windthorst, Texas, held a November memorial service which honored all deceased court members from its inception in 1916 to present day. Pictured from left to right, Joyce Wolf, Jean Berend, Florence Anderle, Rene Herring, Bonnie Schlumpf, Lillie Wolf, Ann Veitenheimer, Gloria Schroeder and Melinda Schneider, who served as members of the planning committee to help to organize the service, do readings, candle lighting, music and singing.



TEXAS COURT VISITS PILGRIM STATUE

Members of Court St. Ann Mother of Mary #2649, La Vernia, Texas, along with Pastor/Court Chaplain Rev. Johnson Le' are seen after Mass on Catholic Daughter Sunday 2023. They are standing in front of The Pilgrim Statue of The Immaculate Heart of Mary. The statue, which originated from Fatima, is one of the original international pilgrim statues.



CALIFORNIA STATE HOLDS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The California State Board sponsored a District Deputy/Leadership Workshop hosted by Court Regina Coeli #1521, Porterville, California. California State Regent Maria Santos-Silva explains, "The workshop was attended by several California courts. A Circle of Love project was held in which participants were asked to bring new toiletries to be donated to our State Charity, Hermanas De La Oración, Palmdale. Participants were also able to Zoom into the Central Valley Traveling Rosary that was being prayed in the beautiful mountains of Tehachapi. It was a fulfilling, informative day that not only trained new leadership for California Catholic Daughters but included prayer with our CDA sisters and helping our state charity."



FIREFIGHTERS THANKED BY TEXAS COURT

Court St. Jude #2363, Laredo, Texas, served dinner to thank local firefighters for their service. The court gifted firefighters from five fire stations ham dinners with sides and desserts. The dinners were delivered to the stations where court members and JCDA prospects also had the opportunity to pray with the firefighters. Pictured with Laredo Firefighters from Station 2, back row court members Maria Del Rosario Andrade, Juanita Mendoza and Yvonne Gonzalez. Middle row, members Jewels Hernandez, Regent Zulema Ramirez, Irma Recio, Lydia Esmeralda Rivera, JCDA Prospect Zelestte Gonzalez and Amada De Leon Rivera. Front row, Member Sandy Cabrera, JCDA Prospect Gia Rivera, Member Stephanie Rangel and JCDA Prospect Mia Mendoza.



CDA SUNDAY AT PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Court Bellevue #655, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, participated in a Pittsburgh diocese celebration of Catholic Daughters Day that included a special breakfast, reception and Mass at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. Special guest, Most Reverend William J. Waltersheid, addressed the group and celebrated Mass. A formal courtroom reception was held for new members, seen in the photo with the court's Unity and Charity banner, left to right, Lauren Devlin, new member; Janine Littlefield, new member; Jackie Daniele, new member; Marian King, member and Jackie's mother; Financial Secretary Mary Jo Pallott; and Kathleen LaMarca, new member.



IOWA COURT WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Court Holy Rosary #1602, Anthon, Iowa, received four new members at their welcoming Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Anthon. In the photo, left to right, District Deputy Cleo Harder, new member Jackie Clausen-Hoagland, Recording Secretary Cathie Rosauer, Regent Linda Dixon, new member Eileen Flood, Debi Weaver, new member Donna Crilly, Financial Secretary Linda Hayworth, Treasurer Vickie Newlon, and Father Randy Schon. Absent: new member Ruth Groth and Vice-Regent Kathy Bernard.



IOWA CAMPUS REGENT HOME COMING QUEEN

Grace Johanson, Regent of Briar Cliff University Campus Court Our Lady of Grace #2591, Sioux City, Iowa, was honored as Briar Cliff University's 2023-24 Homecoming Queen. Grace is a native of Flandreau, South Dakota, majoring in exercise physiology. In addition to being a Catholic Daughter, Grace is a member of Lead Team, Health and Science Club, Resident Assistant and Campus Ministry. Upon graduation, she intends to study Occupational Therapy. She is seen in the photo with Homecoming King Davess Verdugo.



LONG TIME MEMBERS HONORED BY IOWA COURT

Court Queenship of Mary #1806, Waucoma, Iowa, honored members who have been Catholic Daughters for a long period. Pictured holding their certificates, left to right, Shirley Riha, 58 years, Mary Kay Ameling, 47 years, Virginia Manderfield, 62 years, Wilma Balk, 58 years, and Regent Carole Burke.



IOWA COURT HONORS DECEASED MEMBERS

Court Ave Maria #269, Sioux City, Iowa, held a Memorial Service for deceased members. In the photo, Mary Jayne Mousel is placing a rose in honor of her mother, Mary Ann Mousel, who was a 46-year member. In the background is Deacon P. Brockhaus.



PRIEST HONORED BY LOUISIANA COURT

Court St. George #1960, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, presented new vestments to St. George Church Associate Pastor Father Bernard "Bob" Banares, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of his ordination. Father Bob can be seen in the photo with his brand-new vestments surrounded by court well-wishers.



ONE-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY FOR LOUISIANA MEMBER

Doris B. LeBlanc of Court St. Theresa of Avila #1955, Gonzales, Louisiana, celebrated her 100th birthday on July 23rd, 2023, and her 82nd anniversary as a Catholic Daughter on August 17. Doris joined CDA in 1941 and was an active member until recent years but keeps in touch with members over the phone and on visits. She is currently a resident at Francois Bend Senior Living in Gonzales. Doris can be seen in the photo with a beautiful corsage and birthday celebration balloons.



NEW MEXICO MEMBER HONORED ON CDA SUNDAY

Court Santa Cruz #1298, Las Cruces, New Mexico, honored the court's 2023 Catholic Daughter of the Year Nellie Rosales on CDA Sunday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral in Las Cruces. Nellie is in the photo, front row, fifth from right, with the yellow rose corsage, surrounded and supported by her CDA Sisters in beautiful white.



TWO NEW MEMBERS JOIN IOWA COURT

Court St. Andrew #1540, Sibley, Iowa, welcomed two new members at a Reception for New Members Ceremony. Pictured at the ceremony, back row, left to right, Carla Croatt, Jan Walton, Carole Hensch, Susan Truckenmiller, Deborah Van Beest, Dian Nunes, Shirley Solyntjes, Julie Schroder, Lois Fleming, Julie Eddy, Betty Wessels and Kathleen Osterman. Front row, left to right, Treasurer Carol Harper, Vice Regent Lila Hatting, District Deputy Barbara Tremmel, Debbie Owens, new member; Melanie Seivert, new member; Regent Bonnie Gregg, Secretary Crystal Strouth, and Financial Secretary Yvonne O’Leary. A light dinner was served prior to the ceremony.



ONE-HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY FOR CALIFORNIA MEMBER

Court San Luis Obispo #1162, San Luis Obispo, California, celebrated member Marie Wilson’s 100th birthday with family and friends. Marie can be seen in the photo with a beaming smile at the celebration.



NORTH CAROLINA STATE OFFICER FINDS FITNESS AND FUN

North Carolina First Vice State Regent Deborah Del Corro El-Chayeb has discovered an excellent source of enjoyment and exercise in the sport of Pickleball. Debbie, who is a member Court Ave Maria #2650, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, explains. “Growing up as the middle child of three brothers and two sisters, I now understand the source of my competitive spirit! At the age of 71, I’m grateful to have found a sport that is not only fun, challenging and good exercise, but also has great health benefits! Pickleball is a popular paddle sport that has attracted 4.8 million U.S. players of all ages and fitness levels.” Debbie adds, “What I truly love is the camaraderie and the wonderful friendships that are formed as the game encourages socialization and genuine support! Our neighborhood Women’s Team 60+ in age called “The Barbie’s” recently competed in a Pickleball League and played matches against some tough opponents in the area. Although we came in second in the play-offs, we won first in the Season! We owe it to our two ‘Ken’ coaches!” Debbie is second from left in the photo with her fellow teammate “Barbies” showing bright smiles at their delight in the game.



NEW MEMBERS FOR PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Court St. Bernard #339, Indiana, Pennsylvania, had a reception of new members in which five Catholic Daughters were received into the court. Pictured are Color Guards and Flag Bearer Mary Moreau, Patricia Dalecki and Patricia Mencer; Banner Bearer Janet Sharbaugh; Recording Secretary Kathy Sgro; Vice Regent Kathy Nealer; Treasurer Lori Campbell; Regent Barbara Minor; District Deputy Mary Galonski; Recording Secretary Louise Bivens; Ceremonial Coordinator Coleen Bowser and Membership Chairman Gloria Kanick.



DICTIONARIES FOR KIDS BY MINNESOTA COURT

Court St. Mary #509, Moorhead, Minnesota, donated dictionaries to the third graders at St. Joseph’s School. “The teacher plans weekly lessons using the dictionaries to help students learn the usefulness of a dictionary,” said Brandy Pelzel. “Students keep their dictionaries and use them for years to come. This is the second year that our court was able to support the education of students in this way. This year a former court member’s family donated funds toward this project in her memory.” In the photo the young children beam while holding the dictionaries gifted to them by the court.



TEXAS JUNIORS LEARN ABOUT VOCATIONS

JCDA Court Mary Immaculate #1719, Dallas, Texas, hosted Mother Servant of the Cross from the Servants of the Lord and The Virgin of Matara community. Mother gave a wonderful talk about her vocation and spent time answering enthusiastic questions from the Juniors, who gathered for a photo during the event.

SCIENCE AT THE DOORSTEP TO GOD:

Science and Reason in Support of God, the Soul, and Life after Death

By Father Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D.

(Ignatius Press, San Francisco, California, 2023)



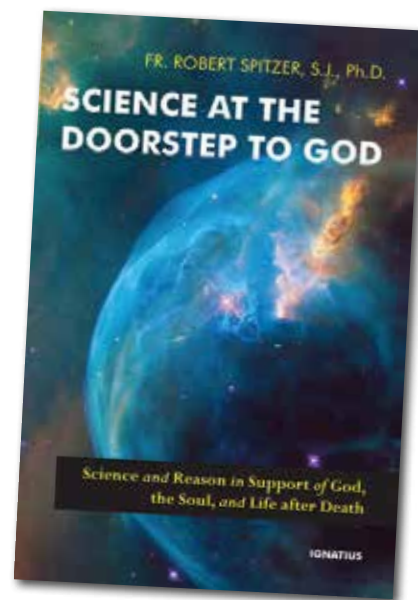
Reviewed by
Peggy Eastman

Why should there be a divide between science and God? There really is no such divide, according to Father Spitzer in this comprehensive book.

Because of the information explosion, the secular world seems to be increasingly populated by narrowly focused specialists who worship at the altar of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). But is God really left out? It is a rare treat to enter the mind of an author who says “no” with such astounding breadth, intellectual rigor, insight and the mental ability to leap nimbly and synthesize information from many diverse fields.

Father Spitzer is a prolific author, hosts “Father Spitzer’s Universe” on EWTN-TV, and is president of the Magis Center for Reason and Faith and the Spitzer Center. He was president of Gonzaga University for 10 years. The first sentence of his introduction sets the tone for this book: “The landscape is changing – the boundary between faith and science is breaking down.” Using an accessible style, Spitzer explores such thorny topics as scientific evidence for the existence of the human soul and the afterlife. He makes science exciting, and takes its concepts beyond the pages of scholarly research journals to the general reader.

Contrary to widespread belief that people in fields of science and medicine are atheists, the author notes that many are people of faith. Studies show that 51 percent of scientists say they believe in God or a higher power, and 76 percent of physicians say they believe in God or a higher spiritual power. An example is physician-scientist Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., who was open about his Christian faith when he was director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the premier U.S. medical research agency, from 2009-2021. Collins is the author of “The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief.”

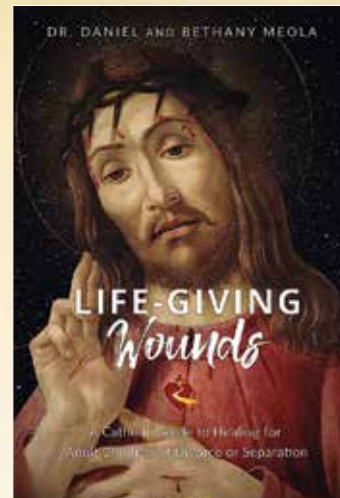
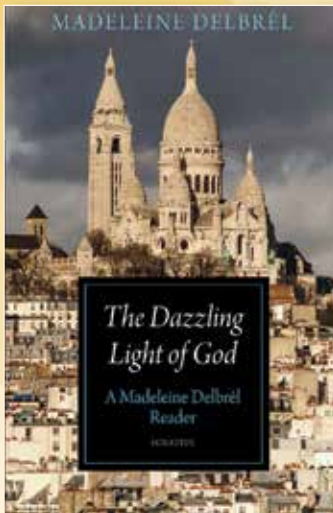
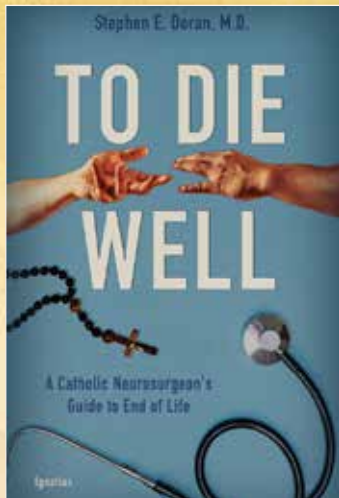


The chapter titles reflect the breadth of Spitzer’s book. Here are some examples: Does Science Point to a Beginning of Our Universe? Is There Medical and Scientific Evidence of a Transcendent Soul? Are Human Intelligence and Self-Consciousness Unique? Evidence for the existence of the afterlife comes primarily from research on near-death experiences – people who apparently died but came back to life. The book contains an extensive discussion of this growing body of research, and cites a New York Academy of Sciences consensus statement among physicians and scientists which states: “Evidence suggests that neither physiological nor cognitive processes end with death.”

Father Spitzer’s book has an extensive bibliography, and the astonishing, stimulating appendix is not to be missed. It covers our first parents, the great developmental leap forward of humankind and the possible existence of aliens. Spitzer examines the possibility of intelligent life beyond earth from a Christian point of view. If aliens exist, would they, too, need a savior? Here, in Father Spitzer’s words, is an idea to ponder: “Why would God create a self-reflective, intelligent, transcendental free alien without giving it the same general awareness of Himself and His moral teaching as He did to us?” The cover photo of the book, a Hubble space telescope image of the Bubble Nebula, invites us to imagine that out there somewhere there might be other intelligent creatures who have the same questions we do about creation.

I found this a meticulously researched, hopeful book which should bolster belief in the soul of each human being and belief in eternal life. We know from the New Testament that this world is not our real home; author Spitzer’s book piles up evidence to support the existence of our ultimate home with God. ✨

INSPIRATION FOR LIVING & DYING WELL



◆ TO DIE WELL

Dr. Stephen Doran draws from his vast experience as a neurosurgeon, bioethicist, and a permanent Deacon to present the Catholic perspective on the art of dying well. The spiritual and moral issues related to death and the process of dying are challenging and complicated. This unique, important work provides a detailed, yet readily understandable guide to these topics.

It focuses on the moral issues that surround death and dying, including end-of-life medical decisions. It also presents the Catholic spiritual understanding of dying and the rites that accompany the death of a Catholic. It will help you contemplate, pray about, and prepare well for the end of your earthly life.

TDWP... Sewn Softcover, \$17.95

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—Robert Royal, Author, *A Deeper Vision*

"Wise, thorough, and sound. Timely and essential for all. Highly recommended."

— Fr. Robert McTeigue, S.J.

Author, *Christendom Lost and Found*

"Dr. Doran deftly sets his rich medical experience within a personal and Catholic perspective."

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Author, *The Heart of Virtue*

◆ THE DAZZLING LIGHT OF GOD

Through the convulsions of the 20th century, beloved French social worker and poet, Venerable Madeleine Delbr el, lived in one of the most brutal European towns—the Communist-run Parisian suburb of Ivry. But to her shock, she saw the dazzling light of God everywhere she looked. "Everything is so beautiful when we look at it with a little love," she wrote.

Gathered in this book are buds of wisdom from across Delbr el's profound writings, who believed that Christian joy is possible in the bleakest settings. Her luminous reflections on Christ, man, and everyday life tap into the depths of divine mystery yet shine with the simplicity of a child.

DLGP... Sewn Softcover, \$16.95

"I couldn't put this book down. A most welcome antidote to the inauthenticity in our culture and our Church."

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"Delbr el presents a radical, refreshing Christian evangelism—the beautiful scandal of charity without compromise."

— Margaret Turek, S.T.D.,

Author, *Atonement*

"It's hard to imagine a collection of writings more suited to our time and its peculiar confusions than these."

— Rodney Howsare, Professor of Theology, DeSales University

◆ LIFE-GIVING WOUNDS

Daniel & Bethany Meola draw from personal experience, theological formation, and their accompanying hundreds of men and women from broken homes to provide a spiritually rich and psychologically sound pathway toward healing for all those whose parents are no longer together, and who are seeking faith-based, reliable guidance for the unique challenges they face.

With compassion, truthfulness, and deep faith in God's everlasting love, this book gives all those from broken homes the focused attention that their unique wounds deserve, and a trustworthy pathway towards healing, wholeness, and the abundant life Christ promises.

LGWP... Sewn Softcover, \$18.95

"In a world of broken homes and divorce, this book is a beacon of hope. Highly recommended!"

—Fr. Larry Richards, Author, *Be A Man!*

"Sensitive, practical, theologically rich, yet accessible, realistic and filled with hope."

—Mary Healy, S.T.D.

Author, *Healing: Bringing the Gift of God's Mercy to the World*

"A book as rare as it is needed. A valuable guide for all who've experienced suffering in family relationships."

—Patrick E. Kelly, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus



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