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CDA Springing Forward

Through Hope and Love





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Labouré is honored to be designated as a national project of the CDA.

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Spring Forth from Lent

The liturgical season of Lent coincides with spring, calling to mind the new life and growth, the hope and change that should characterize this time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This is likewise the season of initiation into the grace-life of the Church, when catechumens and inquirers more intensively prepare to receive the Sacraments of Initiation on Easter Vigil. For forty days, the Church invites us to start afresh.

As I write this, I have just had the blessing of being the co-facilitator of the CDA Book Club we started this Lenten season, and Chapter II of this season's book by Pope Francis, *A Gift of Joy and Hope*, simply yet profoundly underscored the importance of slowing down, especially in this fast changing and extremely demanding world we are in today. (To join the next Book Club, email conniecda@yahoo.com or susankkillian@gmail.com for the link and other information.)

Lent provides us with an opportunity to slow down and take stock of how well we are living our baptismal commitment as disciples of Christ; to reflect on our spiritual lives and to examine and deepen our relationships with God. The Church suggests that we focus on the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving to renew our spiritual lives.

That's almost a nursery rhyme: prayer, fasting, almsgiving.

We repeatedly mention those words in our head, take them to heart, and commit to practice them with our hands, and we could potentially develop the habit.

And that, my dear Catholic daughters, is the key – repetition.



Father Erick Villa
National Chaplain

Recently, I was with our preschoolers here in my parish (I am super blessed to have a parochial school!), and I was invited to read a book for them after recess. The teacher gave me a book entitled *Green Eggs and Ham*, and immediately I thought it would be fun – *Green Eggs and Ham*. After all, they were all wearing green yesterday. Of course, I was wearing black!

I started reading, kids listening and interacting, and suddenly it hit. Kids start to learn how to read through coordinated sounds and repetitions. Every two or so pages, the sentence will end the same way: "I am Sam." Or "Sam I Am." (Sam is the name of the main character), and the preschoolers would excitedly join me each time, with joy building up as they all exclaimed "I am Sam!" Repetition is the tool in creating those memories in the young minds of these kids!

Repetition, but really it is intention. As adults (yet remaining kids at heart), we need to be intentional in our desire to pray, fast and give alms this Lent. We must be careful to pray, fast and give alms for the right intentions and not fall into self-serving measures, as it is easy for our Lenten fast to just become extensions of our New Year's resolutions.

This Jubilee of Hope, we are called to journey together, especially as we all gather together in the state level for our respective conventions this spring. In the language of the Eucharistic Revival which continues with another pilgrimage – this time from Indianapolis to Los Angeles starting May 18, and culminating on June 22, Corpus Christi Sunday – let us "walk with one." Let us continue walking with one another, in unity and charity, springing forward in hope and love!

SHARE

Catholic Daughters of the Americas



Spring 2025
Volume 55 | Number 2

National Chaplain

Father Erick Villa

National Regent

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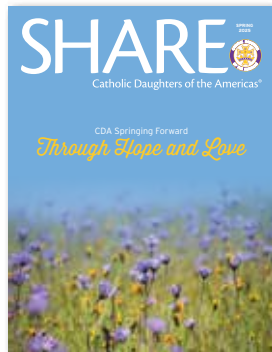
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St. Monica,
Intercede for Us.



About the Cover

We as Catholic Daughters may face many struggles in life, but the phrase, "Faith can move mountains" reminds us that with Faith no challenge is too great. It is truly a message of Hope, even when challenges seem insurmountable. Faith feeds Hope. *Courtesy of Past National Regent Helene Shepard*

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Tomoko Uji from Unsplash

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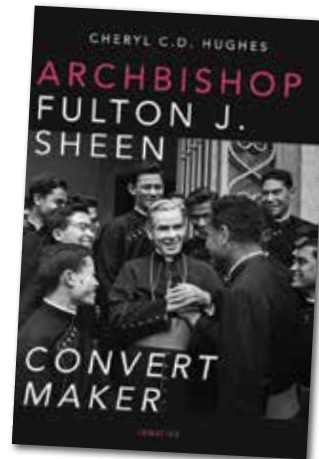


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Submission of materials for publication in Share: All articles, stories and items must be submitted electronically via email to Tom Panas at the following email address: cdashare@aol.com. They should be submitted in a Word document attached to your email or within the body of your email. Photos must be sent in JPEG format as attachments to your email. NO HARD COPY PHOTOS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Be sure to identify individuals in photo, "from left to right." Deadlines for final emailing of materials for publication are: Spring issue - February 15; Summer issue - May 15; Fall issue - August 15; Winter issue - November 15. Due to limited space all material appearing in Share is evaluated for interest to readers, theme in keeping with the purpose of Share, educational, informational, and religious value to readers and date received. The publishers are not responsible for factual errors from information submitted by authors and readers.

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.

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NATIONAL REGENT'S MESSAGE

Springing Forward Through Hope and Love

Congratulations to our newly elected State Officers. A special "Thank You" for answering the call and saying, "Yes Lord." Know that you have the prayers and support of your National Board. April and May were buzzing with all 14 National Board members traveling across the country with 30 State Conventions. One April weekend had 10 conventions, some small one day and others large over several days. This is a fresh start for you as the new State Board to pave the way as you guide your state to be the best Catholic Daughters in the country. This is a chance to spread your wings and make these two years productive. Don't be afraid to think outside of the box and try new things. If it doesn't work, then it was a learning curve. But maybe it will be a great success.

The National Board is looking forward to meeting all of you at the Officers' Training Conference in July in Scottsdale, Arizona, for all State Officers and Territorial Court Regents. It will be a great week for us all as we will work together and have some fun along the way. We'll grow together in spirituality with the guidance of our National Chaplain, Fr. John Erick Villa.

As the hazy, lazy days of summer arrive, it's a time for many courts to take off for a couple months to enjoy vacations and spend time with family and friends building memories. It's also a time to make plans for your state and courts for the fall. Keep in touch with your court members, especially those that are home bound, with a call or an email, or like my court that meets for lunch at a local restaurant during the summer months. And



Susan Moné
National Regent

of course, always be on the lookout for potential new members or a parish that may be a potential location for a new court.

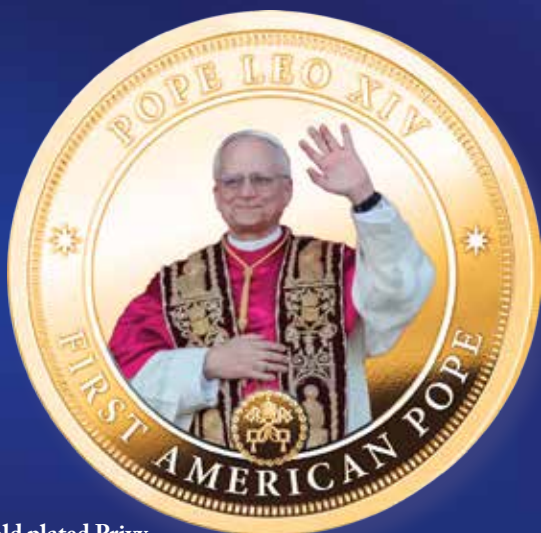
During this year, we have the opportunity to grow in our faith during the Jubilee Year where Pope Francis encouraged us to be Pilgrims of Hope. There are so many people all around us who are hurting, are all alone, or who have lost all hope in life. Sadly, many of those who feel hopeless and lost are our younger generation. Pope Francis challenged us to consider whether we are willing to change our life. The theme

challenges Catholics to renew our hope in Christ and to journey together to share that hope. We as Catholic Daughters already do what the Pope asks through the purpose of our order of spirituality and service as we serve the Lord as we have done for 122 years.

I encourage you during this special year to take advantage of opportunities to gain indulgences by visiting churches that are designated as Jubilee Churches, by attending Mass, and going to confession within the week. Find ways to spend more time in prayer and meditation both in private and with your courts. Continue to find practical ways to give hope to the hopeless. Spend less time watching TV or browsing the internet, read spiritual books to fill your soul. Plan some events in your state and in your local courts to celebrate this Jubilee year.

"Let us learn in difficulty to lift our sights immediately, for from above comes sufficient grace for the performance of our duty and the practice of every virtue" ~ St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

An Historic Event: The First Ever American Pope



24K Gold
plated



24K Gold plated Privy
Mark bears the Papal
Emblem

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Accented by four stars,
"We Have a Pope" in Latin and the
year in Roman Numerals

Pope Leo XIV: The First U.S. Pope

KEY DETAILS

COMMEMORATIVE RELEASE:

Honoring the election and new leadership of His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV.

EXCLUSIVE DESIGN: Intended as a collectors' item, this gleaming tribute is 24K gold plated, and offered in coveted Proof condition. The front portrays Pope Leo XIV in full color, with First American Pope below. A Privy Mark bears the Papal Emblem.

LIMITED AVAILABILITY: Strictly limited to one per household. Only the earliest responders will be able to successfully secure this historic non-monetary Proof coin.

SECURED AND PROTECTED:

Your superb coin arrives sealed in a crystal-clear capsule for heirloom preservation.

Pope Leo XIV, born Robert Francis Prevost on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, became the 267th pope of the Catholic Church on May 8, 2025. He is the first North American and the first Augustinian in centuries to hold the papacy. He is of French, Italian, and Spanish heritage. After earning a mathematics degree from Villanova University, he joined the Order of St. Augustine in 1978 and was ordained a priest in 1982. His missionary work in Peru, where he served as a parish pastor, seminary teacher, and diocesan official, significantly shaped his pastoral approach. He later became the Bishop of Chiclayo in 2015 and was appointed Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in 2023, choosing new Bishops and evaluating their performance for Pope Francis I.

He has chosen a very traditional name, Leo, which has been associated with some of the greatest Popes in history, including Pope Leo X, who commissioned the Sistine Chapel and led the church through the Protestant Reformation. Pope Leo XIII, the most recent to choose the name, was a reformist who was passionately committed to worker's rights and bringing the church into the modern era. Pope Leo XIV has emphasized themes of peace, unity, and spiritual guidance, addressing the Church's internal challenges and global issues such as climate change and social justice and is known for his humble demeanor and diplomatic skills. Now you can share in the excitement at the election of the first American Pope with *The Pope Leo XIV Commemorative Proof Coin* from The Bradford Exchange Mint.

24K Gold Plated

24K Gold plated, this exclusive tribute portrays His Holiness in full color on the front and a 24K Gold-plated privy mark bears the Papal emblem. First American Pope is displayed below. The back bears a sculpted image of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican accented by four stars *Habemus Papam* - "We Have a Pope" and the year in Roman numerals. Proof-quality coining dies create polished, mirror-like fields and raised, frosted imagery. It arrives secured in a crystal-clear capsule to inspire for years to come.

Limited Availability ... Act Now!

Supplies are limited to one per household. Strong demand is expected for this superb tribute to the election of the new pontiff. It's available for just \$49.99, payable in two installments of \$24.99, plus \$6.99 shipping and service. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to preview *The Pope Leo XIV Commemorative Proof Coin* as well as additional issues in the *Pope Leo XIV Commemorative Proof Coin Collection*. Issues will ship about once a month for a single installment at the same low price. You are under no obligation and may cancel at any time. Don't risk missing out, act now.

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A portion of the sales proceeds will be donated to Catholic Charities serving those in need in honor of Pope Leo XIV.

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CDA MEMBERSHIP *in Action*



Essie Walker
National Regent-Elect
National Membership Chairman
National Habitat for Humanity Chairman

As we continue to see the decrease in membership and retention within our organization, we must come to the realization that for Catholic Daughters of the Americas to survive, membership and retention must become a priority within our local courts and in our states. Assisting with increasing membership is the duty of every member. Do your local and state courts have a Membership and Development Team? If so, how active are they?

Let us take a moment to explore some ways that will help us to expand membership within our courts.

- **First and foremost, include spiritual activities during all court meetings.**
- **The next thing is to establish a Membership and Development Team** if your local court does not have one in place.
- **Create a Referral Program.** Have existing members recruit five new members. Establish a time frame. Think about giving some type of incentive to the existing members. Offer a gift card, a discount on dues, or even an entry into a drawing to win a prize.
- **Host a Bring a Friend to a Meeting or CDA Event.** Encourage members to think about a friend or relative who would benefit from or enjoy attending a meeting or an event of what CDA is all about. Their guests would have the opportunity to network and learn something new. By the conclusion of the meeting or event, they may become potential members.
- **Create a Welcome Packet for guests.** Include flyers such as the Top 10 Reasons to Join CDA, Unity and Charity, You are Invited to Join Us, and Spiritual Enhancement. The CDA store has these and other flyers that will be helpful. Take it one step further and include a couple of snacks or useful items.
- **Contact former Catholic Daughters members who left for unknown reasons.** Some might be ready to come back to the group. Mention the mission statement and highlight the benefits of their membership.

- **Follow up with guests.** Send a “Thank You” email or card or take it one step further and make a phone call. Recap the meeting and ask if they have any questions.
- **Add a “Join Up Section” to your website.** This is a good and effortless way to draw attention to anyone looking to join a local court. Utilize testimonials from members. If your local court does not have a website, now is the perfect time to consider establishing one for your court.
- **Film members stories and testimonials about their experiences as Catholic Daughters.** Publish them on your website to give potential members a visual look at the life of a Catholic Daughter. Ask members permission to share their stories.
- **Update your website so that it is welcoming and easy to browse.** Make sure the CDA Mission Statement is included on the first page.
- **Host a charitable event in your local community or in town such as a Walk/Run.** Introduce potential members to CDA while raising funds.
- **Hold diverse events.** Schedule events that will appeal to all age groups including young mothers.
- **Host a guest speaker to attract non-members who share an interest in CDA.** Speakers are powerful motivators. There is something in their message that might convince potential members to stick around to hear more about CDA from existing members.
- **Arrange discussions about CDA and your local court with organizations in your parish and community.** Make sure your topic is about the amazing works the Catholic Daughters are doing in the court, parish and in the community. Have CDA materials to pass out.
- **When sponsoring or attending an event, include the name of your court and make sure the CDA Logo is visible on all materials.** It does not hurt to leave your contact information. Have someone in the court make a couple of business cards when you know members are planning to attend an event not sponsored by CDA.
- **Feature a member or two in the court’s monthly or quarterly newsletter.** Encourage members to share the newsletter with family, friends and even their colleagues if they are still employed. This will allow members to show off their involvement in CDA.
- **Are your meetings leaving out existing members who work or those who are retired and go to bed early? Try switching up your meeting times so that more members will have an opportunity to attend.**
- **Be willing to experiment with new activities within the court.** Ask members for suggestions. Make them feel included.
- **Host seasonal Meet and Greets to include giveaways and fun activities.**

IT IS TIME FOR A CONTEST!

Will your local court be one of the first three winners of the CDA Members in Action Contest? The contest started April 1, 2025, and will run through June 30, 2025. It will continue in three-month segments through December 31, 2025. Drawings will be held every three months.

Rules: The three local courts with the largest increase in membership will be chosen as the winners. Our Office Manager, Martha Hamboussi, will run the numbers at the end of each quarter.

First Place \$100.00
Second Place \$75.00
Third Place \$50.00

Looking forward to seeing your court’s name on the CDA Membership Leader Board.

- Check with different parishes in the area to see if your court can **post the CDA Come and See flyer on the church bulletin board.**
- **Think about visiting the colleges in your area.** If they are unable to establish a Campus Court, see if the young ladies would be interested in joining an adult court.

Remember that recruitment and retention both need equal attention. Let us utilize the recruitment tools we have and remember to keep members engaged so they will continue to come back for more. How often have you heard a member say that we keep doing the same things over and over?

If you have a membership program in place that is working, please consider sharing with the National Membership Chairperson. All responses will be published in the Quarterly or SHARE Magazine. Please forward to Walkeme772@gmail.com. 🌟



Santa Maria Maggiore, Assisi, Acutis's burial place
Photo by Sottoboscogo - Own work, commons.wikimedia.org

THE FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT - *A Saint in Sneakers*



Connie Dronette
First Vice National Regent
National Spiritual Enhancement Chairman
National Facebook Chairman

Two things happened in 1991, one that changed the world of information as we know it and the other the birth of a saint who would use that change to spread devotion to his faith. Carlos Acutis used the first web search engine to share information about the Eucharist globally.

Carlos Acutis was born in London, England, on May 3, 1991. His baptism took place on May 18, 1991. A few months after his birth, the family moved to Milan, Italy, where he would live the rest of his short life. Neither of his parents were religious. His mother says that she had only attended Mass three times, at her first communion,

confirmation, and marriage. Her son would grow up and change all of that.

Even though his parents were not especially devout, Carlo had a special love for God from an early age. He also had a great love for Mary and prayed the Rosary every day. He made his First Holy Communion at age seven. Following that special day, he went to Mass and Adoration every day. He would drag his parents to church as often as he could. Carlo's love for the Eucharist also inspired a deep conversion in his mother.

He was an ordinary child who had an extraordinary love for

the Eucharist. He often said, “The Eucharist is my Highway to Heaven.” He was deeply captivated by the miracles of the Eucharist and felt compelled to share them with the world. He used his computer skills and internet savvy to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that has gone on to be displayed at thousands of parishes around the world. His spiritual director has attested that Carlo was personally convinced that the scientific evidence from Eucharistic miracles would help people to realize that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist and inspire them to come back to Mass. His mother fondly remembers how the project became a family affair that lasted two and half years.

He told his mother one day that he couldn’t understand why there were long lines at concert and football matches, but not for Eucharistic Adoration. The Eucharist was the center of his life, and he wanted it to be that way for others.

Carlo became friends with many of the homeless in Milan. He would often bring them food from home and stay to talk to them. He knew their names. He used his first allowance to buy a sleeping bag for a homeless man. He told his mom that he was fortunate to have everything he needed, and the man had nothing. So many of the homeless people that he touched went to his funeral to say goodbye.

He had many friends at school and on the soccer field. He was a faithful friend who always defended his faith. He was known for defending bullied kids, especially those with disabilities. He often spoke about the importance of going to Mass and confession, human dignity, and chastity with his friends.

Carlo told his mother that he was going to die young but not to worry about him because he would be in heaven with Jesus. Shortly before his passing, he recorded himself, stating that his life was coming to an end. In October 2006, he fell ill, and his parents believed he had the flu. When his symptoms worsened, he was taken to the hospital in Milan. There he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. He offered up his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI, and the church in order that he may skip purgatory and go straight to Heaven. He died on October 12, 2006.

The church where his funeral service was held was described as overflowing with people he had helped throughout his short life, including the homeless people



*Carlos Acutis,
By unknown, wikipedia.org*

whom he had befriended. He was buried in the village of Ternengo. His body was reburied in January 2007, in Assisi, which he had requested because of his devotion to St. Francis of Assisi.

The cause for Carlos’s beatification and canonization opened in 2012, and received approval from the Holy See the following year. On July 5, 2018, he was declared “Venerable” by Pope Francis. The first miracle was attributed to him in early 2020, in response to a Brazilian boy born with a malformed pancreas having been healed after praying to Acutis for his intercession

and receiving one of his relics. He was formally beatified by Pope Francis on October 10, 2020.

In May 2024, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle that was attributed to Carlos’s intercession. The miracle involved a 21-year-old woman from Costa Rica who fell from her bike, leaving her with a severe head trauma that doctors said she was not likely to survive. Her mother prayed to Blessed Carlos at his tomb. The next day, the young girl was sitting up and talking like nothing had happened. The doctors reported that the hemorrhage disappeared. Pope Francis would have canonized Blessed Carlos Acutis on Sunday, April 27, 2025. This also would have been the Jubilee Weekend for Teenagers and Divine Mercy Sunday. The date of his canonization will now be determined by our new pope.

For such a young man, he had a spiritual wisdom beyond his age. So many of his words are so inspiring for the young and not so young.

- “Mary is the only woman in my life.”
- “To always be close to Jesus, that’s my life plan.”
- “All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies.”
- “Continuously ask your guardian angel for help. Your guardian angel has to become your best friend.”
- “Sadness is looking at ourselves, happiness is looking towards God.”
- “I am happy to die because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God.”
- “By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy.”

Blessed Carlos Acutis lived a short life that inspires and gives hope. Which quote above touches and inspires you? Will it change how you live? Will you seek the intercession of this new saint in sneakers? 🙏

SPRINGING FORWARD

Through Hope and Love



Brenda West
National Director

As we enter this spring season, let's look at all of God's wonders. Trees are beginning to bloom including cherry blossoms, dogwoods, oak, and pine. We begin to plan what we want to plant in our gardens. We might want to plant things such as tomatoes, green beans, okra, spinach and many other fresh vegetables since we expect them to cost more this year. Some will learn to can their harvest for the first time and the experienced ones will extend theirs to include more complex items such as meats. Birds like robins, cardinals, blue jays, ducks, and geese are all hatching. Flowers like daffodils, paperweights, roses, carnations, and even some of the annual green plants like sedums are beginning to bloom. Bees are finding it easier to collect pollen, and soon the spring honey will be harvested for sale. The waterways will be filled with new catches, and the fishermen will be out enjoying their favorite pastime.

Crafters will be looking for new and fun items to craft for the home and gardens. The grey drab colors of winter will be replaced with bright vibrant colors of yellows, reds, bright greens, oranges, lavenders, and all the colors of the rainbow. This is just a small sampling of the wonders that God shows us at the beginning of the spring season. If we would take the time to open our eyes, our hearts, and our minds to the wonders that are around us every day, we would see the love that our God has for us. We are in awe of the magnificent creation that He made for us to live out our dreams on this earth. But we must take ownership of it and start protecting it. We can help by cleaning our highways and waterways and by reducing carbon emission and other pollutants in our world. We need to take these small steps to make sure that those coming after us have the same great wonders that we have had in our lifetime.

Remember the song by John Paul Young in 1978, "Love is in the Air." The phrases in this song should give you an unbiased look at the love and hope for the future in this world that God gave us. Some phrases in the song such as, "Every sight and sound," "Whisper in the trees," "Thunder of the sea," "Everywhere I look," "Something I must believe in," and "Rising of the sun and day nearly done" remind us of God's care. Take in the smell of the fresh crisp air, the ocean air, the sight of a new day dawning and the evening sun setting, the sound of the wind and animals moving and taking care of business. It makes one want to say, "Thank You, Lord, for all the good things you have given us."

We have already started to see hope for new beginnings. Babies are being born, and others are due later in the summer. Some are becoming first time parents, grandparents, great grandparents and others adding to their family numbers in the spring season. We see new love forming as people begin to move around outside, exercising, coming to church and faith formation, meeting new people through friends and family. Graduates are finding new positions and are becoming self-sufficient. Some families are buying their first home. Many families are enjoying the excitement of the children/ adults receiving the sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, and Matrimony. All these new beginnings bring hope and love to all involved. God has given us the tools to enjoy His wonders and to use them as we see the need. But don't forget that prayer of thanksgiving is just what He wants from us. Take a few minutes in silence to hear His response and just spend a little time with Him. The spring season can bring love and hope to all who take the time to listen and see how wonderful life can be. 🌸

AN EVERLASTING SYMBOL OF GOD'S LOVE

GENUINE WHITE DIAMONDS

SOLID STERLING SILVER

18K GOLD-PLATED ACCENTS



ELEGANTLY ENGRAVED
ON BACK

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND DIAMOND INFINITY PENDANT



*One night I dreamed a dream,
I was walking along the beach with
my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed
scenes from my life. For each scene, I
noticed two sets of footprints in the
sand, one belonging to me and one to
my Lord.*

*When the last scene of my life shot
before me I looked back at the footprints
in the sand. There was only one set of
footprints. I realized that this was at the
lowest and saddest times of my life. This
always bothered me and I questioned the
Lord about my dilemma.*

*"Lord, You told me when I decided to
follow You, You would walk and talk
with me all the way. But I'm aware that
during the most troublesome times of my
life there is only one set of footprints.*

*I just don't understand why, when I
needed You the most, You leave me."*

He whispered,

*"My precious child, I love you and will
never leave you, never, ever during your
trials and testings. When you saw only
one set of footprints, it was then that I
carried you."*

© Margaret Fishback Powers 1984

Comes with the INSPIRING
"Footprints in the Sand" poem
by Margaret Fishback

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Juniors Celebrate

99TH JCDA ANNIVERSARY



Yvette Griego
National Director
National JCDA Chairman

Congratulations to all the JCDA courts from around the country who gathered to celebrate JCDA Sunday on the 99th Anniversary of the founding the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas. It was nice to see so many beautiful photographs of our JCDA girls with their blue sashes at their respective churches. Several courts posted highlights of their day on Facebook: making this a special day for JCDA and for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. Court St. Rose of Lima #827 of Mission, Texas, made an impact as they not only celebrated on Sunday but also prior to JCDA Sunday they were recognized by the Mayor of City of Mission. Here is their story written by Julissa Martin, JCDA Chairman.



Since their court was instituted on June 8, 2024, the young ladies of JCDA Court St. Rose of Lima #827 in Mission, Texas, have fully embraced their motto, "Be Useful." Through monthly meetings to deepen their spiritual lives, plan community events, and actively participate in parish activities, these young ladies have made a positive impact on their community.

In celebration of JCDA Sunday, Saint Paul Catholic Church in Mission held a special Mass where the young ladies were recognized for their dedication and service to their parish family. Two high school seniors were also presented with graduation cords to wear at their high school graduation ceremonies.



In addition, the City of Mission issued a proclamation officially declaring Sunday, February 16, 2025, be observed as the 99th Anniversary of the National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day. It was a special moment for the girls to be present at the city council meeting and to feel recognized and appreciated by their community. Mackenzie Thomson, the court's president, expressed her gratitude and shared details about the court's activities with the council. Mayor Norie Garza, along with the City Council, expressed their gratitude for the valuable contributions the court has made.

Supported by fellow CDA members, their parish family, and the broader civic community, the young ladies of JCDA Court St. Rose of Lima #827 are making a lasting impact as they continue to "love God, serve others, and live nobly." 🌟



CATHOLICS SEEK TO BRING A BRIGHT LIGHT TO *History*



Karen Dudash
National Director
National Newsletter Chairman

On October 25, 2024, President Joe Biden did something no other United States President has done. He apologized to the American people for the federal government's involvement in Native American Boarding Schools. Under the guise of providing a "proper education and instilling in them American values," these federally funded schools were born. From 1860 until 1978, Native children were forced to attend these schools, whether the parents agreed or not.

The people in charge designed programs to eliminate Indian culture and traditions. Children could not speak their native languages. "Federal agents beat Native children in such schools for speaking Native languages, held them in unsanitary conditions, and forced them into manual and dangerous forms of labor," writes Maggie Blackhawk, Indigenous law professor. Statistics show that in 1926, there were over 61,000 Indigenous youth housed in facilities across the nation.

So, what does this despicable page in American History have to do with the Catholic Church? Well, our Catholic Church operated many of these schools. In fact, in June 2024, U.S. Catholic Bishops issued a public apology for the church's role in the administration of these institutions. They acknowledged the suffering and mistreatment of the innocent children who were forced to live there. However, apologies are not enough. Educating the public about the atrocities is imperative.

Congregations and religious orders across the states seek to bring justice and reconciliation for what amounts to acts of genocide (the systematic extermination of cultural groups). The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) and the Catholic Truth & Healing organization continue to compile information on the Catholic-run schools. By studying the mistakes our predecessors made we can avoid duplicating these errors and move forward. Other groups are dedicated to addressing the abuse, neglect, and trauma that affected many communities in the United States. For example, together, the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, the Diocese of

Tulsa, and St. Gregory's Abbey established the Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools Project to understand the history and experiences of Native students in the 14 Oklahoma Catholic boarding schools from 1880 to 1965. "We have been committed to discovering and telling the truth about this chapter of Oklahoma history and the Church's involvement in it," Archbishop Coakley said. "We must acknowledge the sufferings and disruptions entailed by students, families, and tribes."

The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has an Office of Indian Ministry, which advances the relationship of the Catholic Church with the tribal groups in Minnesota. Robert Haarman, director of this office, reports a variety of community issues facing the survivors of the boarding schools, including "mental health, substance use/abuse, inadequate housing, family issues, and more." The faithful of these communities and those in other dioceses need to be informed about these issues. They need to follow their baptismal promise and meet the needs of those who have and are still suffering from the abuse.

On January 9, 2025, the Washington State Catholic Conference (WSCC) commissioned its study of Catholic boarding schools in Washington. They join many other states to address the negative effects of the schools. Jean Hill, executive director of the WSCC, notes, "The study is a first step toward a more complete understanding of the Catholic Church in Washington state's relationship with local tribes related to boarding schools."

The Catholic Church was responsible for the suffering of so many young Native Americans. We cannot bury our heads in the sand and ignore the truth. We must encourage transparency and find ways to support healing. When the *Oklahoma Catholic Native Schools* project began, Bishop David A. Konderla of Tulsa said, "It is by understanding the past that we can improve and build on good ideas in the present and, where necessary, make amends for failures in the past." As Catholic Daughters, we, too, need to shed light on this dark period and assist in bringing healing and closure. ✝️



Hope

AND MENTAL HEALTH



Mary Ann Kizer
National Director
National Quality of Life Chairman



Has anyone ever called you and said that they did not want to live any longer? What did you do? One of my friends was two and half hours from home when she received that call. During her trip back to Pine Bluff, she talked with her friend, saying, “Hey, wait a minute. I’m headed back right now.” When she finally was able to see her friend face to face, her Mental Health First Aider Training saved the woman.

In 2001, an Australian nurse and a mental health professor developed Mental Health First Aider Training that is now a global movement with training in 24 countries. Based on the acronym, ALGEE, a stuffed Koala Bear named Algee is the Mental Health First Aider mascot. Many Mental Health First Aiders keep Algee with them as a reminder of the steps to diffuse a life-or-death crisis.

ALGEE represents the following:

- A – Access risk of the situation. Call 911 if necessary or call 988 to speak to a trained Mental Health Provider 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- L - Listen to the person in trouble because they called to be heard.
- G - Give reassurance and support.
- E - Encourage self-help.
- E – Encourage professional help.

There are over 4 million trained Mental Health First Aiders in the United States. The goal is to have at least one person in a close circle of 15 friends, family, or peers trained. As a Mental Health First Aider, they can identify, understand, and respond to signs and symptoms of mental health and substance use. I’ve gone through the training twice. Some states require training every three years and some require it every two years.

Our CDA Quality of Life section of Circle of Love includes six pages of suggestions for programs and references. Did you know that Mental Health is not mentioned? Every day in every person’s life, mental health is important. My challenge to each CDA Court is to Google your County University Extension Office and call them to see when the next Mental Health First Aider Training will be held. My hope is that you register and become a Mental Health First Aider.

If your CDA Court has several hundred members, do the Math to see how many Mental Health First Aiders you need for every 15 people. Training lasts 7.5 hours and may be free if a grant covers the cost. During this Year of Hope, Forbes reported that improving mental health was the number one resolution made by 45% of the people. Stay blessed as you add becoming a Mental Health First Aider to your goals. 🌟



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- National Regent Susan Moné***

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NATIONAL DIRECTOR PEGGY GUCKIN:

20

WOMAN
OF THE
YEAR

24

NOMINATED BY PENNSYLVANIA STATE COURT



Last year, the Pennsylvania State Court Officers proudly nominated Margaret (Peggy) M. Guckin for Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) 2024 Woman of the Year.

Peggy, as she is known by family and friends, is an invaluable resource for all things related to CDA and is readily available to answer any questions and concerns whether it pertains to procedures, protocol, or ceremonies. Peggy willingly shares her wealth of knowledge to guide other members in understanding the practices of CDA. Despite physical hardships, Peggy volunteers her time, knowledge, and love of CDA to accomplish any project, ceremony, meeting or convention, and to further ensure that the project is completed to the standards of the CDA.

Peggy lovingly volunteers others to assist her for them to gain experience in the practices of the CDA. She is an example of selflessness and faith that pair so well with the CDA motto, Unity and Charity. Furthermore, she models Unity and Charity through her unconditional service to God, family, friends, CDA members, and her church community. In addition to the supportive roles and numerous activities throughout her CDA service, Peggy has also been an active congregant at Holy Innocents Parish, Philadelphia, and an active member of her community.

At a young age, Peggy became familiar with the aspects of the CDA as she is a third-generation member of Court Rose Cecilia #1641. In 1962, while in the third grade, Peggy joined JCDA as a Juniorette, transitioning to a Junior member until 1971, at which time she transferred to the

senior court. During her tenure in the JCDA Program, Peggy received various accolades, such as Court Outstanding Junior in 1969 and 1971, and Pennsylvania State Outstanding Junior in 1969. She also earned the Marian Medal. Her ten years as a Junior solidified her love of CDA and prepared her for her future roles at various levels: local, state, diocesan, and national. She had been an active member of Court Rose Cecilia #1641 for almost 50 years. Currently, she is an active member and the recording secretary of Court St. Ephrem #2230. In addition to her many years of membership, Peggy has unselfishly offered her time, knowledge and her experience to her home court, the Philadelphia Diocesan Court, the Pennsylvania State Court and also at the national level as a National Director.

Over the years, Peggy has held a multitude of positions within the CDA, such as:

- Served all positions as court officer
- Served on many committees, and organized membership drives
- At the diocesan level served as Recording Secretary for three terms
- Diocesan Coordinator
- Color Guard Coordinator
- Chairman for CDA Liturgies and Luncheons
- District Deputy
- Mentor for new Court Officers
- Co-chair of the first “Deal or No Deal” fundraiser
- Served in all offices at the state level State Regent
- Currently in the process of updating the Pennsylvania State History Book
- Instituted First Pennsylvania Campus Court Our Lady of Loretto #2702 at St. Francis University, Loretto
- State Chair JCDA/Youth
- Apostleship of the Sea
- Chairman of Publicity
- Approved minutes of the 1998 convention
- Audited state books
- Involved in the planning of four state conventions and workshops
- National Director
- National Chairman Resolutions
- National Chairman Standing Rules

- National Chairman Campus Court
- Many other committees and activities

In addition to her many activities and roles supporting CDA, Peggy has also been an active congregant at Holy Innocents Parish, Philadelphia, and an active member of her community:

- Helped plan a parish trip to Rome, had the honor and the privilege to attend Mass celebrated by Pope John Paul II in his private chapel and greeted the Pope after Mass
- Volunteered at the Opening Liturgy for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in 2015, greeting and directing religious at the Pope’s Mass on the Parkway
- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
- Parish Cluster Representative, member of Liturgy and Implementation Committees
- Served as Board Member for Holy Innocents Parish Social Ministry
- Served on parish and school committees for anniversaries and fundraisers; organized and set up various parish functions, coordinated \$10,000.00 drawing, made deposits and organized reception for 500 guests

Peggy’s Work Experience includes:

- Temple University Hospital Administrative Secretary
- L.G.P.N. Graduate of Jefferson University School
- AD R.N. Graduate of Hahnemann University Hospital

In 1976, Peggy was recognized by the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and received several commendations from the CEO of The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Peggy has gone above and beyond the calling of a Catholic Daughter. Throughout the years, beginning in the third grade and up to the present, she has held many offices on many levels. She willingly prepares the next generation for future roles within the Catholic Daughters. Peggy’s character encapsulates the CDA motto of Unity and Charity.

We are proud that Peggy was chosen as the 2024 Woman of the Year for the 60th Biennial National Convention.

LEADERSHIP

GRATITUDE, ENTHUSIASM AND CONFIDENCE



Rosie Stockwell
National Director
National Leadership Chairman

St. Pope John Paul II told us

“Let us remember the past with *gratitude*,
live the present with *enthusiasm*,
and look forward with *confidence*.”

State conventions have been held, and new leadership teams are in place to lead CDA members in implementing the program of work for the organization at all levels. During this transition period, it is wise to reflect on *what has been*, *what is*, and *what will be*. This period should be a time of renewal and revival as well. A new leadership team senses the promise of renewal (new beginnings) because it symbolizes hope. When the seasons change, we can be guaranteed that new plants will sprout, and flowers will bloom. So, this is what happens in CDA – new ideas will sprout, and new projects will bloom to set the pace for the new term. In Deuteronomy 32:2, we read that the “word of the Lord can bring revival, or a spiritual spring at any time.” In the Catholic faith, we believe that the Sacred Heart, which is pierced and wrapped in thorns, shows the depth of Jesus’ love and that His love is eternal. And so it is, with the members of CDA, that the love for the organization and its mission and purposes will help them to realize the power of God and how He works in the everyday lives of all.

Gratitude

In CDA during the transition of power, the new leadership will express gratitude to the outgoing team for their role in bringing the state court, along with the local courts, to new heights. **A feeling of gratitude along with the expectation of using those experiences to develop a new plan symbolizes a fresh start filled with love and hope.**

Enthusiasm

Being in the present as a part of the leadership

team acknowledges that passion, zeal, eagerness, commitment, and service will be the guiding steps to spring forward in the growth of the state and local courts. **Acknowledging team effort when in a leadership position and where much is expected lifts the spirit of the team and contributes to its success.** Spiritually, the team should emphasize doing all things with a devoted heart to the organization and the work of God.

Confidence

Relying on human wisdom should go hand in hand with a firm trust in God’s character and faithfulness. The success of the CDA courts is built on being confident that the future will bring many blessings and opportunities to grow in leadership and in membership.

The leadership team of every state and territory is feeling *grateful* for the past officers who paved the way for the opportunity to lead such a strong group of Catholic women, feeling *enthusiastic* that in real time they will be able to bond and grow in leadership and spirituality, and *confident* that the plans for the term will be implemented and bring success to all courts.

St. John Paul II also told us to remember that we are never alone, and that Christ is on the journey with us. So, at this time of revival and renewal of goals, expectations, plans, spiritual growth, and leadership skills, remember to “Be Not Afraid!” to bring the state and local courts to a new dimension of love and hope.

***Be a Beacon of Hope, A Light in the Darkness ~
Springing Forward in Love & Hope 🙌***



St. Monica, Intercede for Us.



Susan Killian
National Director
National Spiritual Enhancement Co-chairman

Most mothers have a special bond with their children in which they offer unconditional love, extraordinary faith, and hope for their future both here and in heaven. For many Catholic mothers, faith is not just a belief system, but a way of life; one that has guided them through joys and hardships alike. An increasing number of these devoted women find themselves facing a painful reality: their children no longer attend Mass or practice the faith in which they were raised. This phenomenon is a source of deep concern, as it touches on both personal faith and the gift they hoped to pass down to their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

The Catholic Church had once been a place for families to be part of a community: Mass, pancake breakfasts, festivals, St. Joseph Day Tables, retreats, sports, and so much more. The world has changed tremendously in

the past thirty years. What was once considered a safe and fun place to hang out with family and friends has been replaced with technology, travel, sports teams, amusement parks, movies, and other entertainment. There are so many distractions in our fast-paced lives. Our faith is under attack by the evil one!

One of our brave CDA members allowed me to interview her and share her story. Our member and her husband have six children and eight grandchildren. All were baptized and received their first communion. A couple of the children were confirmed. This is a couple that has amazing faith and are completely committed and engaged in our Catholic Church. They have shown a great example to their family of the importance of God in their lives and attending church. At this time, only one goes to church. Although some still believe in God, there is

not a need to attend church. Two of the grandchildren have been traditionally baptized and the others baptized by grandma. One grandchild has received First Communion. Some of you can imagine the heartbreak of this mama. She feels she has failed her most important job, "To get her kids to heaven." She has felt guilt and wondered, "What could I have done differently?" Most of all, she spends every day in prayer for her children and grandchildren, asking the intercession of Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine, to pray for her children to return to God. Dear member, continue with your beautiful faith and prayer. All in God's time.

Just like our member mentioned above, I have also experienced the heartbreak of longing for my children to connect with Mass. My husband and I have been married for 45 years. We have three children and six grandchildren. From birth, our children were brought to Mass and received the sacraments. We were all involved in ministries and spent many hours both at church and outside of church with our parish friends. At the encouragement of our 17-year-old son, my husband converted to Catholicism. Our son is his godfather. About six months to a year later, our son no longer attended Mass. This was so heartbreaking for me, but even more so for my husband because not only was that his son, but also his godfather. What did we do wrong as parents? We spent a lot of time on our knees. When he met his wife-to-be, he decided to marry in the church and has been attending Mass ever since. Our youngest daughter spent her last two years of college living on the college campus. When she returned home, we learned that



Saint Monica, I need your prayers.

You know exactly how I feel because you once felt this sadness yourself. I'm hurting, hopeless, and in despair. I pray with all my heart that my child will return to Christ in His Church, but I cannot do it alone. I need God's help. Please join your prayers with mine in begging that the Lord's powerful grace will flow into my child's life. Ask the Lord Jesus to soften my child's heart, prepare a path for his/her conversion and activate the Holy Spirit in his/her life.

Amen

Courtesy of Word on Fire Resources

she was not attending Mass, so she didn't understand why she needed to go to church. She could still have a relationship with God without attending Mass. Again, ten long years on our knees. At 28, she slowly began her journey back to church. Our daughter was working as an adjunct college English professor and to supplement her meager income, she worked a part-time job at a brewery.

Really??? We were not happy about her working there, thinking the environment could potentially poison the fresh connection she had just rejuvenated with going to Mass, but God had a plan. The brewery owners wanted to have a staff meeting on a Sunday morning. Our daughter said she was unable to attend because she went to church. A young man that had his eye on her said that he went to church, too. Everyone had a good chuckle because he did not look like

"the church-going type." You guessed it! He also went to the Catholic Church. Now, the story: The two of them have been married for three years, were blessed with twins, who they take to Mass every Saturday evening and participate as a family in their own church community events. All in God's timing.

Though it can be heartbreaking to see our children drift from church, know that your love, prayers, and example you have provided may someday lead your children back to church. Keep steadfast in faith, trust in God's divine timing, and continue loving unconditionally, just as God loves all His children. I will be praying daily for your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren to return to or be brought to God and our amazing Catholic Church. ✝️



Catholic Daughters of the Americas CDA Membership in Action CDA Membership Drive Contest



What are we doing and Why?

~ We will hold a Quarterly Membership Drive Contest to increase Local Court Membership

When?

~ April 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025

~ July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025

~ October 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Prizes will be awarded to the top three Local Courts with the most increased members. **In the event of a tie, a drawing will take place.**

~ First Place Prize - \$100.00

~ Second Place Prize - \$75.00

~Third Place Prize - \$50.00

Let us see your Court on the Winner's List!



THIRTY-FIVE YEARS FOR TEXAS COURT

Court Kraljica Mira #2308, Spring, Texas, celebrated its 35th Anniversary with morning Mass followed by a buffet. Several CDA dignitaries were invited, including the Texas State Regent, several current and former District Deputies, and local court regents and vice regents along with Reverend Charles Samperi, Father Thomas Rayen and the church's five Deacons. Approximately 40 people were in attendance. Dora Garza was recognized as one of the court's charter members. Table decorations were given as door prizes, and a fun time was had by all. In the picture from left to right, Financial Secretary Barbara Cupial, Vice Regent Twilley Young, Regent Amy Candelaria, Recording Secretary Elizabeth Martinez, and Treasurer Jane Garcia.



TEXAS COURT HONORS 20 YEARS

Court Daughters of St. Dominic #2549, Houston, Texas, celebrated the 20th anniversary of their institution on February 20, 2025, with a special Mass and court social. Court Chaplain Reverend Roger Estorque was the celebrant. Current officers are Regent Shirley Malonson, Vice Regent Rita Willoughby, Recording Secretary Christine Alvarez, Financial Secretary Sylvia Salas and Treasurer Fran Garza. Court members include *Patty Anders, *Frances Baccigalopi, *Amber Buentello, Mary Edmond, *Elsa Hernandez, *Juanita Hernandez, *Mary LeBlanc, *Pam Lemp, Penny Lezak, *Maryanne Monteilh, Charlotte Prejean-Fuselier, Veronica Ramirez, Carolyn Riggs, Rosa Torres and *Barbara Vasquez. Deceased members: Ernestine Alsene, Dorothy Campbell, Mary Darnell Dunn, Gloria Ramirez, *Elsie Valk, *Alicia Vasquez, and Sharon Whistler. (*charter members)



LOUISIANA COURT CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Court Notre Dame de la Paix #2316, South Vacherie, Louisiana, celebrated its 35th Anniversary Banquet last year. At the ceremony Clothilde Hymel received her 50-year pin. "Clothilde joined Court St. Philip #1504, North Vacherie, Louisiana in 1974," Regent Joyce Stein said, "then transferred to our court when it was instituted on July 9, 1989, becoming a Charter Member. Clothilde is the first 50-year member to receive this honor." Pictured are Immediate Past Regent Susan Stein, Clothilde, and Regent Joyce Stein



TEXAS COURT CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Court Mother of Serenity Court #2466, Weatherford, Texas, honored its 25th anniversary with Mass celebrated by Father Mariya James at the St. Stephens Catholic Chapel. Mass was followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Four charter members, Jackie Dixon, Cathy Kosikowski, Cynthia Humphreys, and Mary Ruiz received 25 Year Pins. Attendees can be seen in the photo gathered in front of the chapel altar.



ARIZONA COURT DONATES TO PARISH

Court Daughters of St. Anthony #2651, Casa Grande, Arizona, presented St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church with a \$2,500 check on behalf of the National CDA Disaster Relief Fund to rebuild the church which had a devastating fire in October 2024. Regent Carolann DiMuzio is seen in the photo presenting the check, along with a letter from National Regent Susan Monè, to Father Ariel at Sunday Mass. Susan's letter read, in part, "I have a personal connection with the CDA there as I instituted that Court as well as the Junior Catholic Daughters Court and know many of the ladies and attended many functions in that beautiful Church."



ILLINOIS COURT FEEDS HUNGRY CHILDREN

Court West Chicago #432, West Chicago, Illinois, volunteered at the Feed My Starving Children Facility in Aurora, Illinois, with two other groups. Rosalinda Campos said, "The highlight of the day was the music play list that had us dancing and singing the whole time which made the day go quickly. So much fun! In all seriousness, the groups that participated at this time packed 72 boxes which contained 15,552 meals. This means that 43 children will be fed for one year. The cost for the meals was \$4,510.08. Thanks to all who took the time to participate." Participants can be seen in the photo behind a huge box of food they prepared to help the hungry.



BIRTHDAY BAGS BY ARIZONA COURT

Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2278, Sun City West, Arizona, delivered birthday bags to Valley View Food Assistance. Dorothy Alexander explains, "Our Circle of Love's Birthday Bag committee recently delivered birthday bags filled with paper plates, napkins, candles, cake, frosting, and all the items needed to make someone's birthday a special occasion. Thanks to the generosity of all the members of our court a total of 306 birthday bags have been delivered to Valley View since the project began in February 2023!" Pictured behind carts filled with the 24 bags of gifts, left to right are committee members Judy Penman, Helen Baie and Pat Michel.



IOWA COURT SUPPORTS FOOD DRIVE

Court St. Rose of Lima #6, Carroll, Iowa, held their annual food drive for the Carroll County Food Pantry at their December 5th monthly meeting. Shown are members, first row, left to right, Regent Eileen Sander, Vice Regent Lavonne Anthofer, Lorraine Danner, and Velma Tigges. Back row, left to right, Jean Knobbe, Nancy Lemker, Marjory Riesberg, Carol Greving, Sue Greving and Joan Bernholtz.



VETERANS HELPED BY IOWA COURT

Members of Court St. Anthony #330, Council Bluffs, Iowa, can be seen in the photo standing with veterans while working at the Veterans Collections taking up donations.



LOUISIANA COURT "ADOPTS" NURSING HOME

Members of Court St. Rose de Lima Court #1194, Duplessis, Louisiana, "adopted" residents of the Gonzales Healthcare Nursing Home. Court members visit once a month to share their time with the residents and to lead them in the Rosary. "The court tries to address both the spiritual needs and some basic needs of the residents, such as clothing and a little special attention," Debi Graham said. "Future plans include setting up a television in the Chapel to livestream Sunday Mass for residents." Seen in the photo with residents are court members who led the Rosary and brought gifts to nursing home residents on Valentine's Day. Pictured, left to right, front row, Linda Babin, Deborah Heath, Edith Powers, Sandi Hack, Mary Savoy and Veronica Brown. Middle row, Becky Shillings, Monica Fauchaux, Lynne Keller, Jeannette Richardson, Dianne Boudreaux, Melissa Madere, Shirley Doucette and Nikki Gentry. Top row, Rebecca Tambling, Bettye Lambert, Connie Braud, Dana Abadie, Bebe Landry and Alva Childress.



BABY SHOWER BY LOUISIANA COURT

Court Circle of Love #2756, Zachary, Louisiana, hosted their annual baby shower by donating diapers and wipes to show support for mothers who have chosen life, and to provide them with resources to help them care for their babies. "The shower," Sue Lemone added, "is also a way to raise awareness of the importance of choosing life!" Court members can be seen in the photo gathered around the many gifts they collected for the young moms.



LOUISIANA COURT HELPS REBUILD A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Court Our Lady of the Lake #695, Lake Charles, Louisiana, held cookie sales across six Fridays during Lent 2025 to support the St. Louis Catholic High School Capital Campaign. In 2020, Hurricanes Laura and Delta devastated the school's original campus and in 2022 land was purchased for a new site. Construction began this year, with completion anticipated in 2027. Court members sold 467 dozen cookies and presented a check for \$2,335 to Kelly Demolle, Principal of St. Louis Catholic High School, as a sign of their commitment to Catholic education and the future of St. Louis Catholic. In the photo, left to right, Laurie Cormier, Treasurer Connie Nodier, Vice Regent Laurie McCall, Andrea Prejean, Regent Dianne Fruge, First Vice National Regent Connie Dronette, Secretary Janis Pauley, and Kelly DeMolle, Principal at St. Louis Catholic High.

"Let all you do be done with love."

Corinthians 16:14



PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES BY MINNESOTA COURT

Court Caledonia #555, Caledonia, Minnesota, is proud to stand by one of 2 banners it purchased for display on the grounds of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Caledonia. Court Caledonia has been very active in several pro-life programs, such as 40 Days for Life, The Catholic Charities Baby Bottle Campaign and Alliance Women's Clinic in La Crosse, Wisconsin (Alliance is a faith-filled organization that provides help and support to women to encourage them to choose Life.) Last year, instead of having a Christmas gift exchange, Court Caledonia gave a monetary donation to Alliance Women's Clinic. On Mother's Day, court members sold carnations after all Masses and most recently participated in the Walk for Life to raise money and awareness. In the photo, seated, left to right, Jeanette Buttell, Maria Keefe, Ann Schmitz and Marcia Bauer. Standing, left to right, Maria Stemper, Marian Gavin, Gerry Klug, Judy VonArx, Rita Noel, Bernadene Privet, Sheila Bolduan, Margie Ferring and Pat Kaufmann



FOOD DRIVE BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Patricia #195, Newburgh, New York, conducted a food drive for the Deacon Jack Seymour Food Pantry. Regent Annie Ryan explains, "The food pantry serves over 900 families per weekend. They are open to the needy population every Friday and Saturday. During the holiday season, people are very generous to contribute, but we felt donations should be made throughout the entire year. Their biggest need is for cereal, pasta and rice. Our court members were very generous in what they donated, and we will continue to support our food pantry as often as possible."



MISSISSIPPI COURT HELPS PREGNANT WOMEN

Court St. Paul the Apostle #2762, Biloxi, Mississippi, collected baby items at their meeting. These, along with a monetary donation, were given to three Pregnancy Centers. Shown in the photo with the gifts are Sondra Broussard, Darlene Rio, Marion McDonough, Annette Norris, Adaire Cantrelle, Ramona Tucker and Cindy Rome.



NEW YORK COURT HELPS FIGHT WILDFIRE

Court Holy Rosary #2341, Greenwood Lake, New York, supported First Responders during the Jennings Creek Wildfire. Regina Pinglora explains, "Our community of Greenwood Lake, New York was transformed for two weeks in November when our little village was descended upon by almost 300 Fire and EMS companies from all over New York State, the United States, and Canada to fight the Jennings Creek/Sterling Forest Wildfire. We are so proud of our CDA sisters who volunteered to prepare and deliver food to those fighting the fire. Our court donated \$400 to help the cause and members contributed much needed supplies. Four of our court members volunteered countless hours preparing and delivering food to the firefighters." Two of the court volunteers are pictured in the photo, Allison Cernuto and Eileen Christiano.



NORTH CAROLINA HELPS HABITAT

The State of North Carolina has been active with our National Project, Habitat for Humanity. National Regent-Elect and National Habitat for Humanity Chairman Essie Walker, who is from North Carolina, said, “we’re very proud of the work we do in North Carolina on behalf of Habitat. To give a family in need their own home to live in is a true gift. Among our activities recently was a refurbished home.” Hard working Catholic Daughters can be seen taking a break in front of the home.



TEXAS COURT HELPS THOSE AT SEA

Court Our Lady St. Hyacinth #2361, Deer Park, Texas, held their annual Seafarer Gift Box Wrapping Party. They were blessed to receive generous items from fellow parishioners and Court members. Together, they wrapped a total of 108 gift boxes for Seafarers in the Port of Houston, thus starting off the holiday season right by giving back to their community.



PENNSYLVANIA COURT HELPS DELIVER HOLIDAY MEALS

Court Bellevue #655, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is proud to have partnered with the Christ Our Savior Parish Outreach Ministry. The ministry, which was created on Thanksgiving 2020, delivers meals six times each year to parishioners of Christ Our Savior Parish and Most Holy Name seniors who are 70 and older. The group cooks, packages and delivers the meals personally. Since its beginning the ministry has delivered over 2,000 meals. Court Bellevue has provided treat cups and bags for several of these dinners including Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. “This is truly a wonderful ministry” said Vice Regent Maria Faller, “and we at Court Bellevue are so happy to be able to help in a small way. We filled 100 Santa cups to go with the Christmas meal. Our court’s coordinator for this project is our Recording Secretary Karen Smay-Brown.” In the photo, with bright, giving smiles as they fill Santa cups for Christmas, front, left to right, Financial Secretary Marlene Unverdured, member Marilou Belch, District Deputy Margie Gowaty and Regent Mary Jo Pallott. Back, left to right, member Dorothy Pavlasky, Recording Secretary Karen Smay-Brown and Karen’s husband Ken.



WISCONSIN COURT HELPS BABIES

Court St. Rose #1062, Wausau, Wisconsin, collected diapers, baby and women hygiene products to donate to The Baby’s Place at The Neighbors’ Place. Elizabeth Robinson, Community Engagement Manager from The Neighbors Place, spoke at the meeting. Smiling court members can be seen around a table with the plentiful gives they donated.



SEMINARIAN SUPPORT BY VIRGINIA COURT

Court Redeemer's Angels #2456, Mechanicville, Virginia, is committed to Catholic religious vocations through two programs, "Sponsoring a Seminarian" and "Convent Care." "We believe this is important in the formation and discernment of our future leaders, both men and women, growing in our Catholic faith," Marybeth Maino said. "This year our court has been able to support both initiatives financially, spiritually and with community generosity. We have sponsored two Seminararians in the Sponsor Seminararians project, Aventon Grimes and David Hairston, and invested in our "Convent Care Initiative" to support the Bethlehem Poor Clares of Barhamsville Monastery."



CARE PACKAGES BY SOUTH DAKOTA COURT

Court St. Katharine Drexel #2516, Roscoe, South Dakota, puts together care packages to be mailed out every April and November as a gift of support to servicemen, college students, and seminararians. Care packages were prepared for 16 students, a serviceman, and three seminararians. In the photo with their neatly packaged gifts, left to right, Kathy Goetz, Marian Scherr, Rosella Heyne, Janet Fuhrmann, Regent Diane Schurr and Lorraine Uhrich.



TEXAS COURT SPONSORS CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Court Santa Maria #184, Marshall, Texas, sponsored a Christmas Toy and Clothing Drive for their parishes' St. Joseph's Santa and the Henry F. Selcer Empty Stocking Fund. Vice Regent Dorothy Sands explains, "St. Joseph's Santa provides gifts for parish families and the Empty Stocking Fund distributes gifts to children aged 12 or younger on their Angel List. Ninety-five items were donated to our Christmas Toy and Clothing Drive collected by our court with the support of our Catholic Daughters, St. Joseph parishioners, and Knights of Columbus Council #1422." Dorothy can be seen in the photo holding a teddy bear from among the many toys collected.



PENNSYLVANIA COURT DONATES CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Court Prince Gallitzin # 2625, Altoona, Pennsylvania, presented many wrapped Christmas gifts to the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation. According to its website, "the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation Afterschool Program strives to help break the cycle of poverty that can ultimately determine the future of generations. The Foundation works to bring hope, resilience, and direction to children. The Foundation wants every child to reach their potential in life regardless of family income." Pictured left to right in the center of their generous gifts, Mary Grace Horton, Judy Wood, Annette Ajay, Sally Lockard, Jennifer Crum-Waite and Jess Brunner (Executive Director of the Gloria Gates Foundation).



IOWA COURT HELPS WINTER GAMES

Court Our Lady of LaSalette #1585, Milford, Iowa, participated in the University of Okoboji Winter Games by washing mugs after the Chili Feed on January 24, 2025. Thanks to the many generous donations received, the Court is now able to plan for the free Veterans Soup Supper to be held on November 1, 2025. In the photo are Deb Bode, Donna Schmidt, Deb Johnson, Connie Tesene, Faith Garcia, Darlene Moritz, Julie Fairchild and Cheryl Houseman.



"BASKETS FOR BENEFITS" FROM MINNESOTA COURT

For the last seventeen years Court Owatonna #1180, Owatonna, Minnesota, has given 200 "Baskets for Benefits" and prayed for the families and individuals. This year the 200th Basket went to the Benefit Fundraiser for Desiree Cabrera. In the photo, left to right, Baskets for Benefits Co-Chairmen Carol Rypka and Philomena Seykora. Destiny Cabarrus and Cassandra Cabrero accepted the gifts. The three young children in the front are Philomena's grandchildren, Ruby, Scarlett and Bronson.



HOLIDAY MEALS FROM TEXAS COURT

Court Mother of Love #2092, Houston, Texas, has worked diligently to support their church, priest and community," Regent and District Deputy #24 L. Faye Marshall said. "We celebrated 50 years on March 29, 2024, when we shared our gifts of love by providing complete boxes of food including turkey, ham, and all the trimmings for a complete meal for five people per family. Our court provided 10 families with Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes of food." Court members can be seen in the photo with the ingredients for the delicious holiday meals.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you do for one of the least of these you do for me."

Matthew 25:40



CHRISTMAS LUNCH BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Court St. Joachim #2553, Madera, California, held its Christmas Lunch with many court sisters participating, as can be seen in the photo



COLORADO COURT MAKES PILGRIMAGE

Members of Court St. Anthony #1248, Durango, Colorado, were pilgrims on a trip to Italy to celebrate the 500 Anniversary of the Theatine Fathers (Order of Clerics). The Theatines have served parishes in Southwest Colorado for decades. Part of the pilgrimage included an audience with Pope Francis in St. Peter's Basilica, seen in the background of the photo. From left to right, Vice Regent Kathleen McGee, Colette Heintz, Debbie Lytle, Regent Cathy Simbeck, Terese Ramsey, Annette Shonk and Julie Romero.



CALIFORNIA COURT BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER

Court Holy Spirit #1803, Yucaipa, California, "actively worked to bring a little happiness and love to those who are needy or sick in our community for the Christmas season," Angela Tereisa said. "We annually create gift shoeboxes to give to our homeless men, women and children in our area. Our court created twenty-seven boxes this year. Each box includes many necessary items, but also small gift items that can be useful, nice, fun or entertaining. In our picture you see most of the boxes and blankets we made, along with our court members who helped make them."



CALIFORNIA COURT "KEEPS THE FLAME"

Marcella Cooper of Court Compton #942, Compton, California, and her husband Raymond Cooper, Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church representative for the African American Catholic Center for Evangelization, donated a "Keeper of the Flame" award plaque. "This plaque is hanging in the church," Yvette Manard said. "The annual award recognizes parishioners who have 'Kept the Flame' alive and is presented every February during African American History Month Memorial Mass for Dr. Martin Luther King at Our Lady of Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles. We are very proud of our many CDA sisters who have been honored with this award." Congratulations to CDA members Elisapeta Fido, Joan Braun, Katherine Nelson, Jacqueline Dunn, Shirley Creighton, Dr. Essie Preston and Francisca Marez. The Keeper of the Flame Plaque can be seen in the photo.

"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage."

Psalm 84:5



CONNECTICUT COURT SUPPORTS FIREFIGHTERS

Court St. Cecelia #735, Stratford, Connecticut, held its Christmas Luncheon in December at Old Town Restaurant in Trumbull. "All attending brought a variety of unwrapped toys which were donated to the Bridgeport Firefighters Family Christmas Fund of Connecticut," Regent Amy Stavola said. "Bridgeport Firemen picked up the toys and presented our court with a lovely bouquet of flowers!" Pictured, left to right with donated toys are officers Recording Secretary Grace Mobilio, Financial Secretary Theresa Palmieri, Vice Regent Lorraine Faiella (sitting); Regent Amy Stavola and Treasurer Germaine Workman.



COLORADO COURT HOLDS 700 MEETINGS

Court Holy Family #1794, Security, Colorado, held its 700th meeting on November 2, 2024. Instituted on February 1, 1959, the court has been active for 65 years. Congratulations to Court Holy Family on this achievement! Court members can be seen in the photo celebrating the big event.



IOWA COURT ENJOYS EPIPHANY CONCERT

Several members of Court Cedar Rapids #1768, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, attended the Epiphany Concert, Radiant Light, on January 5, 2025, at St. Pius X Church in Cedar Rapids. "Vice Regent Sue May accompanied various ensembles and directed the St. Pius Celebration Choir," Elaine Boes said. "Concert Coordinator Marita O'Connell and Sue's daughter, also performed in the concert by directing, singing and playing the violin. All who attended enjoyed the many solo, choir, and small group performances. The concert was a beautiful and joyful way to celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord." Seen in the photo enjoying themselves at the concert are Sue May, Stephanie Guzman and Jan Casey.



IOWA COURT HOLDS WOMEN'S PARTY

Court St. Andrew #1540, Sibley, Iowa, held a Women's Winter Party for all church women at The Lantern in Sibley, on Saturday, January 18, 2025. "A lovely brunch was served followed by games, prizes and fellowship," Vice Regent and District Deputy Lila Hatting said. "Lots of laughter and conversation kept everyone warm on a very cold day!" Court members can be seen in the photo enjoying themselves.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35



LENTEN RETREAT HELD BY KANSAS COURT

Court Salina #1972, Salina, Kansas, hosted a Lenten Retreat of Challenge and Restoration with a focus on spiritual growth, prayer, and devotion during the season of Lent. The day began with the Sacrifice of the Mass. In addition to daily Mass, the day included Sacrament of Penance, a guided prayer on the Passion of Jesus, a meditation on the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary, and talks on various aspects of growth in prayer and devotion, and especially on practical ways of showing our faith in our everyday lives. Participants can be seen in the photo underneath the banner of Unity and Charity.



CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS BY NEBRASKA COURT

As seen in the photo, members of Court Our Lady of Fatima #1549, North Platte, Nebraska, made Christmas gift bags for the Liberty House and Christmas Cards for several group homes in North Platte, including inmates at the Lincoln County Detention Center.



LOUISIANA COURT BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER

Members of Court Our Lady of Fatima Court #1506, Lake Charles, Louisiana were joined by Juniors from St. Margaret's Catholic Church to sing Christmas Carols for the residents at Lake Charles Care Center in Lake Charles, Louisiana. As can be seen in the photo, attendees really enjoyed the time shared with everyone who attended.



NEBRASKA COURT HELPS STUDENT SCREENINGS

Court Our Lady of Faith #2604, Omaha, Nebraska, assisted the faculty and school nurse at St. James Seton School with vision and hearing screenings for over 400 children in grades K-8. Recording Secretary Shirley Simons explains, "This was the first year for court members to volunteer to assist with these annual screenings. Screenings were completed to identify students for additional vision or hearing evaluations. The volunteers enjoyed the energy and smiles of the children while completing vision screenings in January and hearing screenings in February." Seen in action assisting students, left, front to back, Linda Isaacson, Financial Secretary Kitty Heiman, Barb Gent and Chris Guinane. Right, front to back, Luci Catalano, Regent Colleen Haack, and Lori Darby.

*"Each one must give as decided in the heart,
not reluctantly for God loves a cheerful giver."*

2 Corinthians 9:7



"COME AND SEE" BY NEBRASKA COURT

Court Our Lady of Nebraska #2186, Omaha, Nebraska, held a "Come and See" Brunch and Speaker event. "The event had a twofold purpose," Regent and Event Committee member Mary Wendl said. "First, to experience more of Jesus's love with Teresa Raun's sharing her son Nathan's story and how she found Joy in Suffering through her Catholic Faith and relationship with Jesus, and second to educate our guests on the benefits of CDA membership." In the photo, left to right, Spirituality Chair and event committee member Ann Marie Goettl, Financial Secretary Susan Ciccotti, Treasurer Claire Meredith, Regent and committee member Mary Wendl and committee member Jean Batenhorst Smith. Court members provided the meal for this special occasion with thirty-eight guests in attendance.



OREGON WELCOMES NEW COURT

Court Our Lady of Grace #2817, Waldport, Oregon, was instituted on December 15, 2024, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Waldport and officers were installed. "The new court has twenty-five charter members," Oregon State Regent Gail Holt said. "Welcome Sisters in Christ!" Pictured first row, Oregon State Regent Gail Holt, Vice Regent Sheila Schiedler, Regent Edee Steckler, Treasurer Bonnie Rimola, Financial Secretary Janice Korn and Recording Secretary Melody Northcutt. Second row, Karen Pinneo, Pamela Lamphear, Karen Eibner and Patricia Balosky. Third row, Rose Galvan, Julia Collins, Teresa Grady, Carol Logsdon and Dawn Wagaman. Fourth row Charlene Walton, Donna Riewer, Martha Embley, Linda Baehr and Mary Wiser.



NORTH DAKOTA COURT VISITS NATIVITY

Court Immaculate Conception #322, Bismarck, North Dakota, attended the Nativity Scene Blessing at the State Capitol in Bismarck. "Fr. John Paul Gardner opened with prayer and provided the blessing for the nativity scene," Regent Karen Selensky said. "Senator Jerry Klein welcomed guests to the State Capitol. Jennifer Braun led us in song. The 4th Degree Knights from Bismarck and Mandan joined us." In the photo on either side of the beautiful Nativity Scene, back row, left to right, Fr. Gardner, Steve Riehl, Greg Morford, Dale VanEckhout, Johanna Nagel, Marella Krein, Pete Deichert, Norma Rajme, Benny Villorente and Delores Friedt. Front row, left to right, Michelle Dunn, Celia Sattler, Regent Karen Selensky, Treasurer Mary Ann Morford, Vice Regent Dorleen Wolbaum and Bev Rivinus.



FAMILY "ADOPTED" BY TEXAS COURT AT CHRISTMAS

Court Our Lady Queen of the Lake #2364, Lake Jackson, Texas, continued its annual tradition of adopting a family in the fall and then supporting them at Christmas and on special occasions for the calendar year. The family that was chosen this year has five children. Monies collected at the annual Catholic Daughter/Knights of Columbus Christmas party plus CDA contributions go towards supporting the family. Santa's Elves in the photo are Chairman Janet Spicer, Karen Korenek, Bunny Swist and Janet Gipson.



TEXAS COURT HOSTS PRAYER BREAKFAST

Court Mother Cabrini #1422, El Paso, Texas, hosted a Prayer Breakfast at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church (OLA). Court member Dolores Romo lead over 150 participants in the meditative recitation of The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Speakers Court Chaplain Reverend Mark Salas, Reverend Mariano Lopez and El Paso Diocese Seminarian Jonathan Brieva each gave a bilingual presentation to the community on the theme "What are we thankful for." Funds that were donated and collected were all given to OLA to aid in the repair of two broken stain glass windows in the church. In the photo are: Reverend Lopez and AnaElena Allen.



TEXAS COURT MAKES ROSARIES

Court St. Michael #559, Weimar, Texas, was asked to make 500 red, white and blue rosaries for the Texas State Convention in April 2025. In addition, another 200 that will be donated to Catholic Rural Life are now complete. Rosary makers pictured are Mary Jane Berger, Laura Hromadka, Rosary Chairwoman Diane Bartek, Janet Purdy and Patsy Anders. Not pictured is Bernice Schoenfeld who is "queen of rosary making in this court."



TEXAS COURT MAKES TEDDY BEARS

Court Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal #2588, Havelock, Texas, recently held a workshop attended by 14 people to stuff teddy bears and make "no-sew" blankets to donate to the Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman. "We stuffed 30 bears and have accumulated over 11 blankets to deliver," Sandra Mullis explained. "Victory Junction is a camp for children with serious medical conditions. Each child takes a bear and blanket home from camp. Our Court will make a delivery and take a tour in May." In the photo court members gather around the stuffed bears and no-sew blankets they created. For more information on Victory Junction go to www.victoryjunction.org.



AFTERNOON TEA BY TEXAS COURT

"What a wonderful tea party we hosted!" Norma Hennessy, Regent, Court Our Lady #2337, Dallas. Texas, said. "All court members volunteered to decorate, bake, and host all 150 guests. We handed out anniversary pins to those with milestone anniversaries, including our two charter members as we celebrate our 35th court anniversary next month. The purpose of the tea party was to share the light of Christ, the joy of the Lord, with our sisters in the parish and school. Our CDA sisters made it attractive to be a member of our court by welcoming with open arms all who entered the parish hall. We had ladies asking how they could join in on all the fun. The picture shows that the Tea was well-attended."

*"If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit."
Galatians 5:25*



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES BY VIRGINIA COURT

Court Immaculate Conception #2789, Woodbridge, Virginia, gathered for their first-ever holiday party on December 7, 2024, at a court member's home. Regent Alayne Conway explains, "The festive event featured a potluck lunch, a white elephant gift exchange, an ugly sweater contest along with fostering fellowship and celebrating the joy of the Christmas season. The court even had the opportunity to have our newest member take the CDA pledge! The group also made ornaments for a CDA Christmas tree that was on display at Holy Family Church. Following the Christmas party, the ladies set up the tree with the handmade ornaments. Pictured are ladies from the court enjoying the festivities and sharing in the holiday spirit."



IOWA COURT MOTHER-DAUGHTER MEET

Two mother-daughter couples from Court Saint Katherine #266, Earling, Iowa, exchanged Christmas greetings at the Dunlap Care Center this past holiday season. In the photo, front row, left, Sarah Christensen age 18, met Benita Schiltz, age 104, right. Joining them were Benita's daughter Mary Powell, standing, left, and Sarah's mother Ann Christensen, right.



WISCONSIN COURT JOINS BISHOP AT MASS

Court La Crosse #1183, La Crosse, Wisconsin, was honored to participate in the televised Masses with His Eminence Bishop Gerard William Battersby, Bishop of La Crosse, Wisconsin, officiating at Christ the King Church in La Crosse. The Masses were viewed during Advent and Christmas Day. Pictured in the church are, first row, Rita Herlitzke and Georgia Gray. Second row, Terri La Chine, Bernie Colling, Kay Kesler, Bernice Lansing and Barb McGovern. Third row, Sandra Borreson, Mary Therese Rinzel, Barb Lee, Paulette Drozdowicz, Jan Kroll, Ruth Vanderploeg and Marie Allen. Last row, Bishop Battersby and Kathy Michel.



MINNESOTA COURT HOLDS MEMORIAL FOR MEMBERS

"Each year during November, Court Queen of Peace #1558, Slayton, Minnesota, offers a Memorial Mass for members who have passed away during the year," Rita Lear said. "This year the Mass was offered by Father Peter Schuster for Barb Surprenant, Iva Goergan, Eunice Ramert, Eva Clausen, and Kay Weiss." Pictured is Regent Deanna Konkol with the memorial candles and statue of the Blessed Mother.



CHARTER MEMBER HONORED BY IDAHO COURT

Court Our Lady of Victory, #1348, Nampa, Idaho, helped at a birthday reception for 105-year-old charter member Dorothy Vauk. "Dorothy has been an active participant in many ministries of St. Paul's Catholic Church, as well as our court," Marilyn Boehme said. "Our court presented Dorothy with a special proclamation certificate as a Member of Distinction in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas." Court members in the photo are Dawn Peck, Elli Gerichs, Marilyn Boehme, Laura Reeping, Regent Mary Ann Scott, Marilyn Gunning, Takako Cuttlers and Dorothy Vauk.



MEMBER SUPPORTED BY LOUISIANA COURT

Court Our Lady of Perpetual Help #1848, Houma, Louisiana, honored long standing member Ada Hester. "Our court has deep respect and affection for Ada," Regent Janet Robichaux said. "She is unable to leave her home due to illness, so we help Ada by doing her grocery shopping and bringing her Communion." Ada can be seen in the photo with a sign about how the court extends compassion to shut-ins.



NEW MEMBERS JOIN IOWA COURT

Court Our Lady of Good Counsel #434, Fort Dodge, Iowa, welcomed new members, seen in the picture, front row, left to right, Cindy Rial, Laura Ludgate, Joan Blair and Mary Jo Hinds (next to National Director Rita Carlson). Other CDA officials welcoming the new Catholic Daughters, center row, left to right, District Deputy Denise Schreiber, District Deputy Supervisor Marie Sheeder, Regent Deb Kelleher, Vice Regent JoAnn Anderson, Recording Secretary Lisa Clabaugh, Financial Secretary Tracey Patterson, Treasurer Lori Algoe and District Deputy Christina Rosch. Back row, left to right, Knights of Columbus Steve Rehmann, Bill Patz, Court Chaplain Msgr. Kevin McCoy, Knights Brandon Clabaugh, Frank Benjamin and Dave Bradley. "Thank you, Msgr. Kevin and Knights of Columbus, Council 613," Christina Rosch said, "for your continued dedication to our court."



IOWA COURT WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Court Castile #49, Waterloo, Iowa, welcomed three new members, as seen in the photo with court members, Pam Johnston, Regent Sue LeQuatte, Teresa Fagerlind, Mary Beth Skiles, Linda Casey and Bev Deganhardt.

*"So, whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come."*

2 Corinthians 5:17



NEW YORK COURT MEMBER RECEIVES QUILT

Nancy Faust, Past Regent of Court Rita #264, Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York, received a beautiful gift. Nancy explains, "I am the blessed recipient of this beautiful quilt created by Ruth Marie Ward and donated to the Past Regents and Officers Chapter of the Archdiocese of New York, through Past National Regent Helene Shepard and Patricia Niosi, by Ruth's daughter Patti Guerriera after her mother passed away at age 90. Ruth's quilt was presented as a raffle to support the charitable mission of the Past Regents and Officers Chapter of the Archdiocese of New York, to benefit our Seminarians. Ruth's quilt is now on another journey to my home." The beautiful quilt can be seen in the photo held by the ladies behind its completion, from left to right, Kathy Behringer, Nancy Douthit, Carol Licata and Tina Quirk. Missing from the photo are Mary Kelly and Carol Mantalto.



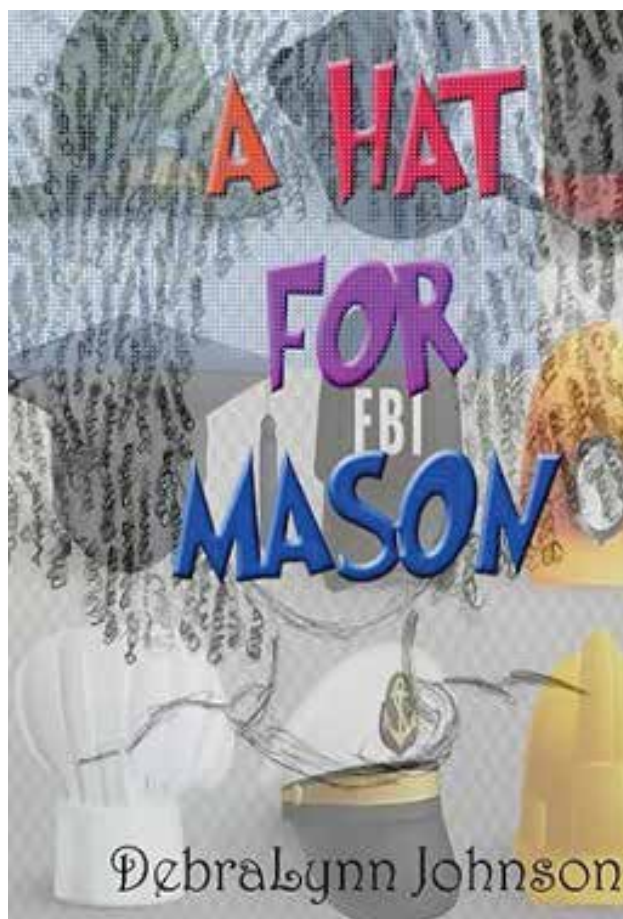
NEW OFFICERS AND MEMBERS FOR PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Court Saint Gerard Majella #2751, Clarence, Pennsylvania, held a simultaneous installation of officers and new members. They can be seen in the photo smiling with their court chaplain in the church.



NEW YORK COURT ON TELEVISION

Regent Susan Maher and Craft Fair Chairman Mary Lynn Borst of Court St. Pius X, #1690, Levittown, New York, were interviewed on News 12 local television at the court's annual November Craft Fair held at St. Bernard's Church gymnasium. They can be seen in the picture of the on-camera interview.



CHILDREN'S BOOK BY TEXAS COURT REGENT

Debralynn Johnson, Regent of Queenship of Mary Court #2776, Beaumont, Texas, wrote a children's book and has offered royalties to be donated to Texas State to help with the state's Literacy Initiative. The name of the book is "A Hat for Mason" and it's sold on Amazon. Congratulations to Debralynn and for her generosity in offering royalties to support the Texas State Literacy Initiative.



INSTALLATION CEREMONY BY TEXAS COURT

Court Madonna #1817, Dallas, Texas, held its installation ceremony on December 12, 2024, for Father Paul Mallam and a reception of new members. Court Madonna's new officers and District Deputy led the ceremony with member assistance after the 8:00 am Mass at St. Pius X in Dallas. A welcoming social followed in the parish hall where unity was visible. Attendees can be seen in the photo.



TEXAS COURT REGENTS TEAM UP FOR KIDS

Texas Court Regents Tressa Richard of Court Mary, Mother of the Eucharist #2798, and Rose Marie Chapman, Regent of Court St. Gerard #1938, worked together to build beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace (on its website it says, "Our Mission is 'NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!' We are an organization that builds and delivers beds to children in need of a bed and a safe place to sleep.") Seen in the photo with David Richard, left, are Tressa and Marie.



CORRECTION: TEXAS COURT ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS

In the winter issue of SHARE, we published that Court Our Lady of the Skyways, #2006, Irving, Texas, introduced new officers. We received the following note and correction from Recording Secretary Shirley J Miller:

"Thank you for placing our picture in SHARE. Unfortunately, the caption that I sent with the picture was incorrect. I feel bad that I let my members down. Is it possible to insert a correction in the next issue? The caption should read: pictured left to right, Deacon Patrick Lamers, Treasurer Yolanda Pena, Vice Regent JoAnne Dreyer, Regent Teresa Rodriguez, Pastor Father Ernesto Sanchez, Financial Secretary Susie Velez and Recording Secretary Shirley Miller."

(We appreciate Shirley sending the correction to the story.)



IOWA COURT AWARDS ST. FAUSTINA AWARD

Second Vice State Regent Julie Marlow, left, of Court Ave Maria #302, Des Moines, Iowa, presents the St. Faustina Award for Membership and Court Development to Carol Iske. Carol was also given recognition at the last year's National Convention for this award.



FLORIDA COURT ANNOUNCES NEW OFFICERS

Court St. Anthony the Abbott #2816, Brooksville, Florida, installed new officers. Seen in the photo, left to right, Vice Regent Patricia Gibson, Regent Denise Gaarder, Chaplain Father Paul Pecchie, Financial Secretary Debra Sabens, Recording Secretary Amy Taylor and Treasurer Linda Ermatinger.



TEXAS COURT INSTALLS NEW CHAPLAIN AND MEMBERS

Court St. Ann Mother of Mary #2649, La Vernia, Texas, received new members and installed their parish's new pastor Father Jordan Milligan as Court Chaplain at their January meeting. Regent Suzanne Zelinski presided. New members seen in the photo with Father Milligan are Sarah Pawlik-Ransleben, Rebecca Southern, Sharon Wootan, Olivia Quintero, Dawn Farrell, Kathy Klar and Veronica Mendoza.

*"Give, and it will be given to you.
For with the measure,
you use it will be
measured back to you."*

Luke 6:38



SIXTY YEARS FOR WASHINGTON COURT MEMBER

Congratulations to Nancy Rogers of Court Blessed Mary of the Narrows #2003, Tacoma, Washington, for reaching 60 years as a CDA member! Nancy began her membership in 1959 and remains a Catholic Daughter to this day. Her court sisters are very proud of her. Nancy can be seen with her trademark bright smile in the photo.



IOWA COURT INSTALLS NEW CHAPLAIN

Father David Hemann of St. Joseph's Church was installed as the Chaplain of Catholic Daughters Court Our Lady of LaSalette #1585, Milford, Iowa. Father David is seen in the photo with Vice Regent Connie Tesene.



NEW YORK JUNIORS DONATE TO PARISH

JCDA Court Ave Maria #832, Kings Park, New York, used the profits from their annual Thanksgiving Bake Sale to donate an 85-inch television to their church that is used by the parish staff, the school of religion, and the many support organizations that meet in the building. Pictured are the junior officers, chairman and co-chairs of spirituality, service, and scrapbooking.



A THANK YOU FROM SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Julia Barecky, seen in the photo, wrote the following to National Director and National JCDA Chairman Yvette Greigo:

*Dear Yvette Griego and all CDA and JCDA Directors,
Thank you so much for granting me the National JCDA Scholarship!
I will use the money to support my education. I feel so blessed to have had the support of the JCDA foundation growing up through faith formation and community and even more now through this scholarship and community. As I move forward in college, I will continue to praise the Lord, remembering all the blessings He has brought to me so far!*

Thanks, and God Bless

Julia Barecky



CONTEST WINNERS AT NEW YORK COURT

Court Cortland #919, Cortland, New York, awarded the following students from St. Mary's School in Cortland: Poetry: Division 1 (4th and 5th grade), 1st place, Esme Fischer, 2nd place MK Reagan and 3rd place Salvatore Moon. Division 2 (6th grade), 1st place, Michael Reagan. Art, Division 1, 1st place Colton Ganoung, 2nd place Kellen Brockway and 3rd place, Evelyn Carpenter. Division 2, 1st place Violet Hatch, 2nd place Lucien Fischer, and 3rd place, Gideon Fischer. Pictured, left to right, bottom row, MK Reagan, Kellen Brockway, Gideon Fischer, Michael Reagan, Salvatore Moon, Lucien Fischer, Esme Fischer and Evelyn Carpenter. Back row, co-chairmen Shelley Steve and Theresa Foster.



FLORIDA COURT ANNOUNCES CONTEST WINNERS

Court St. Anthony the Abbot, #2816, Brooksville, Florida, announced Education Contest Winners, seen in the photo, Margaret Zapata, Art, grades 9-12; Solomon Zapata, Poetry, grades 6-8; Abby Schular, Art, grades 4-5; and Enma McKissock, Art, grades K-3. Congratulations to each!

ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN: CONVERT MAKER

By Cheryl C.D. Hughes

(Ignatius Press, San Francisco, California, 2024)



Reviewed by
Peggy Eastman
Past National SHARE Editor

Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979) was a larger-than-life priest of deep Catholic faith who had a special gift for connecting with all kinds of people. He is known for his radio show, his popular 1950s television show “Life is Worth Living,” his many books and his teaching and preaching. Always impeccably dressed in the garb of the religious position he held, Sheen had the glitz and glamour of a celebrity priest.

But beneath that glamour was Sheen’s deep commitment to Jesus, which translated into an ability to convert people to the Catholic faith – some of them unexpected and unlikely. Now on the path to sainthood, Sheen is credited with converting people as disparate as U.S. Congresswoman Clare Boothe Luce; Communist activist Louis Budenz; journalist Heywood Broun; spy Elizabeth Bentley; composer Fritz Kreisler; Communist Bella Dodd; Hollywood starlet Virginia Mayo; and many others. It is this ability to make converts that forms the foundation for this biography. Author Hughes, who holds a PhD in historical theology from Durham University in England, is clearly fascinated with Sheen’s appeal to such diverse people in different walks of life.

The black and white photos in the book show a man with soulful eyes and a clear presence before the public. But there is one photo that I found especially moving. Sheen is bending over a leper from Uganda to give him a rosary. Sheen is clearly touching the man’s whole hands – no dangling the rosary in the air to avoid skin contact. The archbishop was known to have a special concern for those with leprosy (Hanson’s disease).

Born into a farming family that settled in Peoria, Illinois, Sheen decided early that farming was not for him. He was devout from an early age, becoming an altar boy at age eight. A graduate of his local boys’ Catholic high school, Sheen excelled academically. After graduation from St. Viator College, Sheen became a

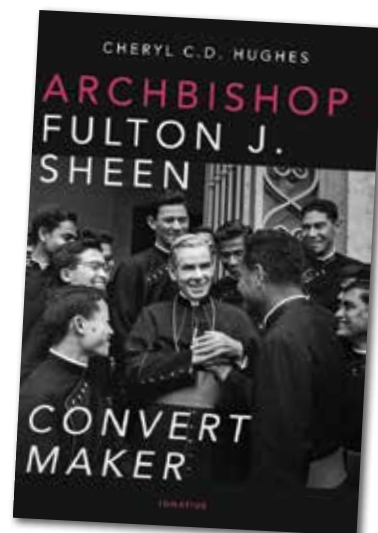
seminarian at St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota and was ordained to the priesthood in September of 1919. He was installed as the bishop of Rochester, N.Y., in December of 1966. In November 1969 Pope Paul VI named Sheen an archbishop.

I found all of the conversion stories compelling. Especially moving is the story of how Sheen rescued Clare Boothe Luce – magazine editor, playwright, war correspondent, Congresswoman, ambassador and advisor to presidents – from a suicidal depression following the death of her only child, Ann, in a car accident. Ann died on the scene when her car was hit near the campus of Stanford University, where she was a student.

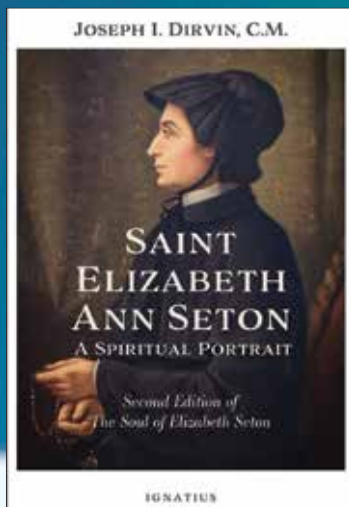
Luce was getting ready to run for her second term in Congress at the time of Ann’s death. “She was crying and trying to pray, but she had no words other than the Our Father,” the author writes. A priest she knew said he would have Sheen, then a monsignor, call on her. Sheen invited her to his apartment for dinner, where he talked of the goodness of God. “Clare Luce recognized Sheen as the right catechist for her, and he knew she would be a good candidate for conversion,” the book states. The two met frequently, and Luce found that she believed what the Catholic Church taught about Christ. She said she thanked God for “this brilliant teacher, this good and gifted professor of Catholic philosophy.” She publicly wrote about her conversion for “McCall’s” magazine.

Sheen’s rise within the Catholic Church was not without conflict. The book does not white-wash the rift that developed between him and his mentor, Francis Cardinal Spellman. No doubt this caused Sheen much sorrow, but he was always respectful of Spellman and did not mention this falling out in his own autobiography.

The Bible shows us that God gives some men and women special gifts to serve Him. As this book makes clear, Venerable Fulton J. Sheen was one of those men. 🙏



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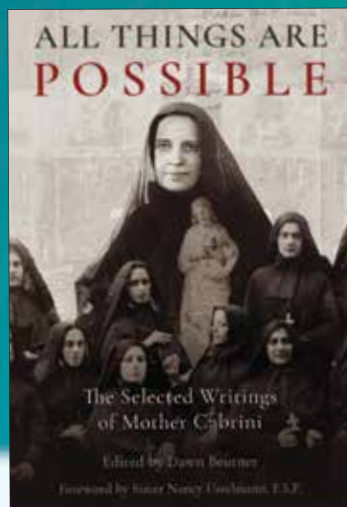
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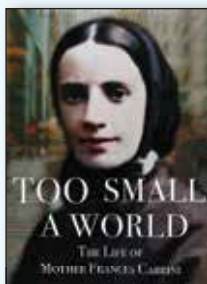
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