



UNITY
AND
CHARITY

NOVA EVA NEWSLETTER

(St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church)
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS
COURT REV. PATRICK McARDLE #448
134 East Bishop Street • Bellefonte, PA 16823
814.355.3134

Editor: Karen Pipta, 104 Gwenedd Ct., Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 (717) 379-6788 email: kpipta@gmail.com
Christine A. Surovec, 127 Middle Street, Pleasant Gap, PA 16823 (814) 359-2654 email: christinesurovec68@gmail.com
Barbara Materna, 948 Two Mile Road, Howard, PA 16841 (814) 359-0354 email: minnscpo@verizon.net

Chaplain:

Rev. Brian Saylor
134 E. Bishop Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-3134
bsaylor@dioceseaj.org

Regent:

Phyllis Galio
468 Blanchard Street
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 355-1005
pegalio@comcast.net

Vice-Regent:

Angela Basalla
150 Sunset Acres
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 574-0248
grapeape285@gmail.com

Secretary:

Lorraine Fello
2751 Zion Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 371-8856
lfello726@gmail.com

Financial Secretary:

Linda Womeldorf
200 Wyndtree Court, Apt 204
Bellefonte, PA 16823
(814) 359-9915
lindakay4825@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Karen Pipta
104 Gwenedd Court
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
(717) 379-6788
kpipta@gmail.com

State Regent:

Shirley Hall
901 West 15th Street
Tyrone, PA 16686
(814) 684-2043
shirleyhall901@gmail.com

OPENING the DOOR



One of my favorite traditions growing up, was our family Advent Calendar. Of course, it was always a big deal with three of us (me, my brother, and my sister) trying to get the little piece of chocolate behind the door each day. Even with a schedule, we could still end up arguing over whose turn it was to get the treat. And sometimes the treats might even have “vanished” during the night.

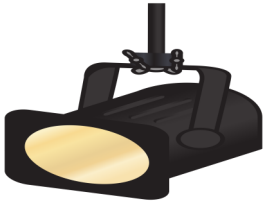
To this day I still love the tradition of Advent Calendars. I get one every year for me and one for my mother filled with different candies. In fact, some years I’ve gotten more than one calendar, the second one usually Star Wars themed and filled with goofy little knickknacks from the movies and tv shows.

As a child, the most important thing for me was the chocolate and we were a day closer to all those Christmas presents, but as I got older, I realized it’s supposed to be an anticipation of our opening the door of our heart to Christ.

That I think is the challenge we face each year. Of all the things we will do this holiday season, how many of them will draw us more fully into the Lord’s presence? We decorate, we cook, we bake, we send cards and gifts, but how we enter into each of those things matters. Sometimes we can be so focused on getting things done, that we forget why we’re doing them. But each of these things, all that business, can draw us closer, when we do them with love in our hearts and thoughts of all those they’ll nourish, entertain, or uplift.

This Advent, if you have an Advent Calendar, try saying a prayer of thanksgiving as you open it. Thank God for the little joys in your daily life, the little treats you uncover throughout your day. And even if you don’t have one, maybe just pause each morning and personally invite the Lord into your heart that day. Open the door of your heart to him as you begin your day and see how much more joy you just might find as we make our way to Christmas. How much easier many of our tasks will be throughout this holiday season. And how much closer we might find ourselves to the Lord come Christmas morning.

CDA meetings: 1st Thursday of every month: Meeting begins at 6:45p.m.
St. John the Evangelist Catholic School 134 E. Bishop Street, Bellefonte, PA
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS—www.catholicdaughters.org



Catholic Daughter In The Spotlight:

by Barbara Materna

Janie Provan was born into a large family being one of ten children and raised in Johnstown Pennsylvania.

She attended twelve years of Catholic School. Her first job was working in Glosser Brothers Department Store in the HR office. At times she worked on the old-fashioned switchboard.

In her first marriage her husband was in the Army and at one point stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia for nine months. It was a mere 50 years ago when her husband took a civil service job for a state liquor store which brought them to Bellefonte.

She has one son Eric who went to school here at St. John's. She stayed at home until Eric was in first grade and then she went to work in the banking industry working for 30 years at what is now called M&T Bank. She was in the loan department during the day and on weekends worked as a teller at the main office. She sometimes traveled to work in other branches of the bank in the area including the one in Altoona.

After her marriage ended, her girlfriends were determined to find her someone new. One of them set her up on a blind date with non-other than Dave Provan and the rest is history. They have been married for 31 years. Dave also has one son and together they have six grandchildren. After banking she went to work at Brookline Personal Care which became Juniper Village. She worked there until her first retirement.

That didn't stop her, so she went to work for a Home Care business until she and Dave began going to Florida which led to a much-deserved move to full retirement.

Janie loves to decorate for the holidays, enjoys arts & crafts and being a member of St. John's in Stitches. She also recently joined the Garden Club.

Back in the day Irene DeGraff would stop Janie after church talking to her about Catholic Daughters. She knew Janie was involved in the church and encouraged her to join CDA which she did in 2003. It didn't take but six months and Janie became the Recording Secretary. She went on to serve as Vice-Regent, Regent, Treasurer and finally Financial Secretary. Her favorite thing about being a Catholic Daughter is meeting all the new women and getting to know them. The camaraderie is special to her.

Fall Basket Raffle Winners

We would like to thank everyone that bought raffle tickets for the Fall Food Baskets.



There were three winners that were drawn on Sunday, November 20, 2022.

We appreciate all the support that we receive from our members and the parish during our fundraisers.

Congratulations to Richard O'Neil; Vickie Wolfe and Christine Surovec.

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When you are doing your shopping this year and shop at Amazon, please consider supporting our Court through Amazon Smile.

Amazon will make a donation to our Catholic Daughters Court whenever you make a purchase any time of the year.

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<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7174453>.



Court Rev. Patrick McArdle Celebrates 100th, 101st and 102nd Anniversaries



Finally! After having to cancel our 100th Anniversary Celebration one week before the world shut down for the Covid-19 pandemic, our members gathered on Sunday, October 16, 2022 to attend the 8:00am Mass.

A banquet was held at the Nittany Country Club in Mingoville at 1:00pm. Prior to dinner, awards were given to members that had reached 5 year milestones.



We currently have 9 members that have been with Court Rev. Patrick McArdle for 50 years or more.

The Court revised the Standing Rule for the Lifetime Achievement Award to include not only the member that was voted each year as winner, but also any member that reaches the 50 year mark. This year we awarded Lifetime Achievement Awards to six members at the banquet.



Shirley Boldin, Barbara Charnick, Connie Davis, Rose Granite, Donna Neidigh, Janet Oesterling, and Alvesta Sebastianelli were all honored for having been members of Court Rev. Patrick McArdle #448 for 50-55 years.

Everyone that attended the banquet received a rosary from Italy that was blessed by the Pope as a gift from the court.



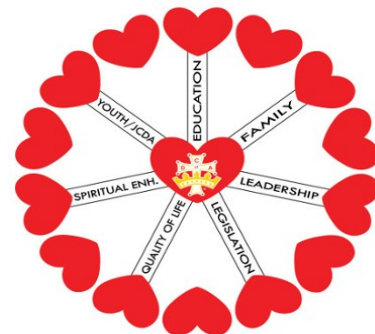


Classroom / CDA 101

by Barbara Materna

"Spiritual Enhancement"

A spoke from the Circle of Love



The Spiritual Enhancement spoke is so important to the Circle of Love. Ideally, we will all take a spiritual approach to life. If we have the holy spirit within us, it will help us in many areas of our life.

The spiritual program in our local court will help us nourish and develop our relationships with God. Spiritual Enhancement helps each of us seek ideas for enhancing our own personal dedication to God and the Blessed Mother as well as by finding ways to involve our members in the spiritual life of our parish and our community.

Our court has hosted many Spiritual Enhancement events to include most recently the "Flame of Love" rosaries and several different retreats over the years. A few years ago, we published our "Catholic Daughters' Prayer Book", which has been a blessing to many of us and those we have shared it with.

We support our Priest, Deacon, and Seminarian in their vocations.

Sadly, over the last few years we have lost several members, although we do make sure we come together to hold a Wake service for our members who pass on either at the actual Wake, Funeral or at a future meeting. It is a beautiful time for us to reflect on the memories of a Catholic Daughter.

We also come together to serve meals at the funerals of parishioners who need a little something to bring their family and friends together after a funeral and/or burial. So many of our Catholic Daughters bake cakes for the funeral meals and others volunteer to meet and make the rest of the meal.

These are just a few examples of the special things we do to strengthen our faith and show our love for each other, fellow parishioners, and the community.

Let us now pray the "Prayer for the Intercession of the Blessed Mother" - May we be assisted, we beseech Thee, O Lord, by the worshipful intercession of Thy glorious Mother, the ever-Virgin Mary; that we, who have been enriched by her perpetual blessings, may be delivered from all dangers, and through her loving kindness made to be one heart and mind: who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

As always, you can check out more information about the Circle of Love on our National website: <https://www.catholicdaughters.org/circle-of-love>.

Membership Dues:

All members are required to pay annual dues of \$20.00. The dues for the period of 1/1/2023 to 1/1/2024 are now being collected.

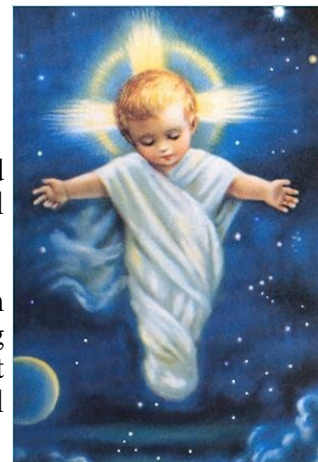


Only those who are lifetime members (50 years or more) or who permanently reside in a nursing home do not have to pay dues.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Many blessing to you and your families at this special time of year.

Wishing you all good health and happiness in the coming year and may our infant Lord and Savior be with all of you in 2023.



Mission Statement

"Catholic Daughters of the Americas strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all"