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REV. JOHN J. WALL
President, Catholic Extension

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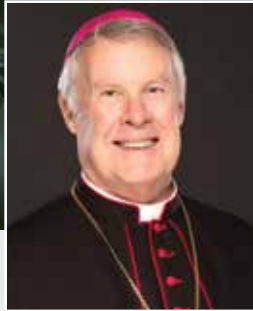
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CATHOLIC  EXTENSION

Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change

National Chaplain's Message Bishop R. Walker Nickless



*Most Reverend
R. Walker Nickless
National Chaplain*

MY DEAR CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS IN CHRIST,

The season of Advent is the time given to us by the Church to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas. We make of our hearts the stable in which Mary and Joseph seek shelter and in which the infant King is born. This takes great effort. In our fallen human nature, it is far easier to allow our heart to be made into the inn full of "important people," in which God finds no welcome.

We can, however, overcome these worldly orientations. It helps to contemplate the significance of Christ's birth. When God became man to suffer and die for us, to save us from sin and death, He might, had He so wished, have appeared as an adult: the conquering hero enters, stage right, as it were, on the morning on which He was baptized by John the Baptist.

But He did not wish this. He freely chose to endure, or rather, to share with us in every sense, the full experience of being human, save only that He did not sin. He chose to begin at the moment of conception, in Mary's willing womb. He, the God and Creator of the universe, chose to be born just as we all are, and to accept the helplessness of the infant, entirely dependent on Mary and Joseph for everything. He chose to grow and learn, as we all do, to be hungry and tired, to submit to the authority of others, to work with His hands in Mary's kitchen and in Joseph's shop.

We don't remember our own infancy, but so many of you, as mothers, know in the most intimate way what it means to embrace an infant in your loving arms. You know what it means for that child to be loved, unconditionally, simply for being. You know, because you have loved another in that way, how the simple knowledge that one is loved makes all other growth and choices possible.

This is the human life and love which God chose in the Incarnation. This is what we celebrate at Christmas –

Christ's birth, yes, both then in the manger and now in our hearts; the birth of our faith, and our Church, and our salvation, of course. But also, we come to understand, the birth of a new hope, a new freedom to love,

a new tenderness between all the brothers and sisters of the human family. When we live in Christ and for Christ, when we love God and neighbor unselfishly, as Christ commanded and modeled, then we, too, "choose life and love," in imitation of His empowering choice.

It is a sad irony of our fallen humanity that our celebration of the Christmas season is marred by the anniversary of imposing legal abortion on our country – a contemporary "slaughter of the innocents," and the very antithesis of choosing life and love. Christ's full union with our humanity allows us to have compassion on all the victims of this terrible choice – not only the babies, but their siblings who know they are missing a brother or sister to love, the mothers who regret their choice and are agonized by not having loved, the fathers whose children were taken from them. We renew all our efforts to change both the law and the hearts and minds of our country, so that, once again, choosing life and love will be the only imaginable choice.

My dear sisters in Christ, in fidelity to our Lord Jesus Christ, may we make a lasting home for Him in our hearts, and thus live our noble vocations as baptized believers, as wife and mother, and as sister in the human family with generous, Christ-like love for all. May all the joys and blessings of the seasons of Advent and Christmas be yours, and may God bless you and yours most abundantly. Please pray for me, as I pray earnestly for all of you.

Your brother in Christ,
Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless
Bishop of Sioux City

SHARE



Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Fall 2021
Volume 51 | Number 4

National Chaplain

Bishop Walker Nickless

National Clergy Consultant

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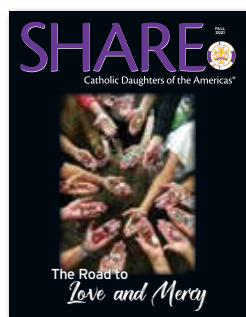
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I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it Shine,
Let it Shine,
Let it Shine!

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Faithful Women Set the World on Fire

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Catholic Extension



About the Cover

The beautiful picture on the Cover was taken at the first of three "Faithful Women Set the World on Fire" retreats held by National Secretary-Treasurer Connie Dronette. The picture shows hands of retreatants extending to the center, each holding rosary beads. It symbolizes the spiritual unity that can be experienced when praying the rosary with others and was one of the many ways in which the retreats brought Catholic Daughters together and nourished their faith.

www.catholicdaughters.org

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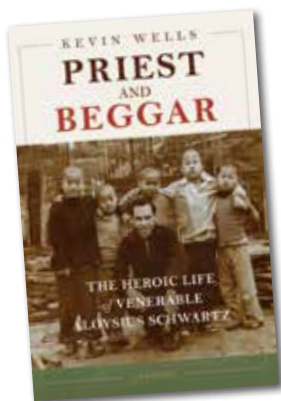
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Submission of materials for publication in Share: All articles, stories and items must be submitted electronically via email to Tom Panas at the following email address: cdashare@aol.com. They should be submitted in a Word document attached to your 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 - September 1; Winter issue - December 1. 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.

National Clergy Consultant's Message

Father Siby Punnoose



Fr. Siby Punnoose
National Clergy Consultant

Choose Life and Love

Choose life and love. “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life.” (Deut. 30:19)

First “choosing life” involves loving God. Not grade school Valentine kind of love. Nor the infatuation or selfish kind of love that says, “I love you because you make me feel so good.” Rather, it is the Godly marriage kind of love, whole hearted love. Deuteronomy 6:5 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.” Therefore, to “Choose Life” we must have a change of heart. And that change can only come through faith in Jesus, who graciously teaches us, “I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through Me;” (Jn.14:6) and again Jesus tells us, “You did not choose Me but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit...” Jn.15:16. “Bearing fruit,” “Choosing life,” living by God’s commands is God’s gracious work in us, daily turning us away from sinful self and in true repentance “being turned back” to Jesus.

Through the daily blessings of Holy Baptism and through the daily blessings of God’s gracious Word and Sacraments, we CAN and DO “Choose life,” live in the blessings of Eternal Life with Jesus, now and eternally. With the Apostle Paul we rejoice, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the Body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Gal 2:20

God says, “Choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.” God wants you to live a blessed, full and flourishing, prosperous life, and He knows that the only way for that to happen is to make the right choices. And in this case, that choice is life. When you choose life, you and your descendents declare and show that you serve the living God who definitely wants only good for you and not evil. You declare and show that God is your God by the choices you make. God bless you all.

SAINT THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Living on Love

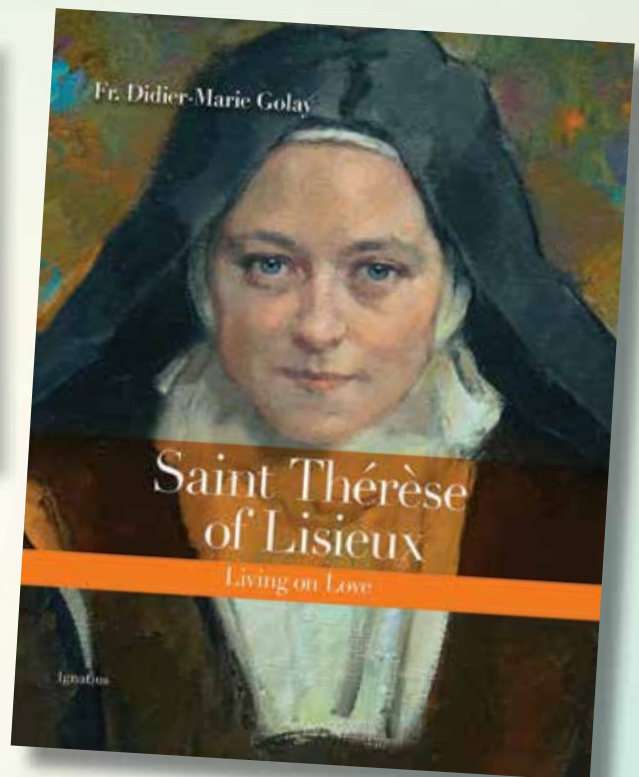


Thérèse of Lisieux is one of the most popular saints in the world, but the details of her life and spirituality are still not widely known and are somewhat of a mystery even to her devoted followers.

With **over 150 stunning photographs**, profound text, and plentiful sidebars on history, geography, and spiritual themes, this gorgeous work by Fr. Didier-Marie Golay, O.C.D. helps us enter into the universe of "the greatest saint of modern times" to discover the simplicity, yet depth of her daily life and of her relationships, both human and spiritual.

Her whole life is encapsulated in her poem "Living on Love": a passionate love of Christ lived out in the everyday joys and trials of life, in inner and outer sufferings. Living on love is a spiritual program for life, but to live it requires a special grace for which we must ask, especially through the intercession of the "Little Flower" of Jesus – who is also a Doctor of the Church. This unique, stunning, and very beautiful work will inspire readers to desire to imitate St. Thérèse in "living on love". **Lavishly Illustrated—Color, B & W**

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National Regent's Message

National Regent Sherry Nilles



Sherry Nilles
National Regent

MY DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST,

We are almost at the end of another year! What difference have we made in our personal lives? Our spiritual lives? With our families? With our courts?

A new year starts with vigor and making many promises that we will change our lives to make a difference in our world. What was on your list?

Have we added more time for talking to God? How about listening to God? The Magnificat has helped in my prayer life. It contains a simple morning and evening prayer plus a saint of the day.

The lives of the saints are interesting. Our beloved saints lived very simple ordinary lives. Anyone can become a saint. Isn't that our purpose in life? From the Baltimore Catechism we learn that we are on this earth to know, love and serve God and our neighbor here on earth and join God in heaven.

One of the best places to know, love and serve God is in our beautiful organization, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The Circle of Love is a perfect start for changing our lives. Start with spending more time with Jesus. Read the Bible every day. Thank God for every day. Give from your heart by visiting the sick, praying for all God's people, giving food to the hungry and clothing to those in need or preparing a Box of Joy. Study the lives of the saints then imitate them in your life. Share your God-given talents at home, work or the church.

With the many challenges in this pandemic year, have we spent more time listening to, talking with and enjoying our families? A weekly game night is one great way to set time aside for just being with our loved ones. Attending Mass as a family is a wonderful way to tell our children without saying a word that God is important to this family. Many ball games, parties and gatherings were curtailed this year giving each one of us an opportunity to gather as family. Remember Father Peyton and his words, *"The family that prays together, stays together."* As prayerful women, may we always remember in

our prayers our loved ones here on earth, those who are in heaven and our great organization.

The March for Life will be held January 21, 2022. Your national officers and directors will be attending the Vigil Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception the evening of January 20. Please pray for us as we travel to Washington, DC, and march with many other pilgrims to support life from

conception to natural death.

Most courts have returned to in-person meetings. The challenge of Zoom meetings, planning a fund-raiser or just keeping members informed was difficult this year. Are we better about coming to our local meetings and volunteering because we missed that during the challenging pandemic?

Am I pleased with who I was this past year? Could I have been kinder to everyone, even those I did not know? Was I willing to take a chance to make life a little better for my family? My court? My world?

So, my dear sisters, we have another chance to make a difference! Take that chance with a smile, and "Let all you do be done with love." 1 Cor 16:14

The First Call to the 59th Biennial Convention in San Juan, Puerto Rico, will be sent in December. Consider attending the convention. Our sisters in Puerto Rico are planning a beautiful convention.

And they love to party! Tuesday evening, July 19, Father Willie Peña, and his students from the college will be presenting a tribute to Puerto Rico. Father is known for his fabulous productions. This will be an evening to remember. Interesting tours will be available. We have important business to complete. Please send your suggested bylaw changes to Carolyn Malik, National Bylaw Chairman, P.O. Box 243, Shiner, TX 77984 by January 15, 2022.

May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearts and homes.

God bless you in the new year.





SOAK IN THE SUN IN BEAUTIFUL

PUERTO RICO

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS
OF THE AMERICAS
NATIONAL CONVENTION
2022

If you haven't registered for CDA's National Convention in Puerto Rico next summer, what are you waiting for? If you are waiting for a sign that you need to attend, then look no further; this is IT! Join me and your sister Catholic Daughters as we take over Puerto Rico in the fabulous flair the Catholic Daughters bring wherever we go. Sip margaritas on a beach, relax by your hotel pool, fall asleep on a hammock in the shade; it's all waiting for you.

Most of all, join with Catholic Daughters from around the country as we celebrate our faith, struggles, and triumphs in this wonderful, four-day event. Best part? No passport is needed!

My sisters on the National Board join me in our invitation to you. Don't struggle with the "FOMO" (Fear Of Missing Out). The only thing you should struggle with is picking which sandals to wear while strolling on white-sand beaches.

The island of Puerto Rico is waiting to enchant you, so register soon while space is available. Don't put it off until next year - gift this blessing to yourself now. I'll see you on the beach!

- Emily Guilherme

BOX OF JOY



Emily Guilherme
National Regent-Elect
National Convention Chair

Recently, I was blessed to be able to attend the National Council of Catholic Women Convention and spoke with a remarkable woman of God, Ms. Tessie O'Dea. She works for the ministry Cross Catholic Outreach, and after speaking for just a few moments, I want to encourage you all to do something incredible; it has to do with Cross Catholic Outreach's "Box of Joy" campaign.

As we prepare to enter the joyous season of Advent, I would like to invite each court to consider making Box of Joy their central project. This amazing mission involves hundreds of parishes, thousands of volunteers, and one common goal: to fill boxes with essentials and transport them to the impoverished and vulnerable children in dire situations. These boxes will be filled with toiletries, school supplies, rosaries, toys, and clothing to children in countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, Haiti, and Nicaragua. Just last year over 1,352 volunteers in 724 parishes worked joyfully and diligently to send Boxes of Joy to 61,422 children in seven impoverished countries, and this year, Catholic Daughters is joining the mission.

What can you do to help? There are many ways. You can involve your parish by being a donation site. Your court can set a goal of how many children you're hoping to bless, and then work together to receive donations for those boxes. Ask for donations at different parish Masses. Create donation drop-off bins. Or, encourage each family in your parish to put together just one box. We can easily work together to make a difference and to share the love of Christ.

Once you sign up for Box of Joy or ask for information you will receive the address of where to send the boxes and an envelope with all the details and information of what you can buy.

If that doesn't seem like something your court is interested in doing, there are links where you or your court members may donate to the boxes online via Amazon



Essie Walker's niece
holds two freshly
wrapped gift boxes

A table filled with
Boxes of Joy

Prime. Lastly, there is even a website which allows courts to donate a flat fee to this ministry through the web addresses featured below:

Amazon Donations:

<https://tinyurl.com/boxofjoyCDA>

Cross Catholic Direct Monetary Donation:

<https://crosscatholic.org/box-of-joy/online/>

I encourage you all to say "yes" to making this ministry something that we all do to bless God's children. Every Box of Joy represents one child who will feel loved, honored, and cared for. If your court can create just one box, or provide the financial means to bring a box to a child, imagine what a difference that will make in his/her life! These boxes may seem so small in size, but their blessings are abundant in the hearts of children. Be generous and help us provide for the most vulnerable in our world. If you or your court is not able to take on this project this year please consider it for next year, also please let me know if you participated. I would love to hear from you.

I ask for your prayers for this endeavor as we prepare to do something amazing for Advent. You are in my prayers constantly. 🙏

LEADERSHIP



Essie Walker
Second Vice National Regent
National Leadership Chairman

The Path to *Leadership and Love*

We often hear conversations that include how much one loves their family, friends, work, prayer groups, fighting for rights and helping others in need. We know that love can be shown in many different forms. As leaders, one's love should be in the form of Christian love to include kindness and respect. Having the ability to include love, kindness and respect in our CDA activities and communications will make a huge impact on the survivorship of our CDA organization.

There are numerous ways to show members how we can incorporate love, kindness, and respect in our leadership role. Below are a few examples:

- **Interacting or communicating with others.** Our tone of voice can play a huge role in how members will react to different situations.
- **Show members how much they are appreciated.** A handwritten thank you note or phone call is more personal than an email. Go one step further and acknowledge members publicly.
- **Offer encouragement.** If we see or learn that a new officer is struggling, offer kind words that will give her the boost she needs.
- **Ask members how they are doing and really mean it.** This will let members know we really care about them.
- **Offer support or help in time of need.** Pray for members and ask what we can do to help.
- **Train rather than criticize.** If a member is not meeting the assigned expectations offer support to include training.

- **Keep lines of communication open.** Let members know that we are available to assist them at any time. Do not assume they know.
- **Offer respect.** Let members know their opinions and suggestions count. One may not like another's opinion or suggestion; however, it is important to stay in a loving and accepting mode. This will let others know that we are approachable and that their opinion is appreciated.
- **Have a listening ear.** Do not be in a position where we are doing all the talking. Give members the opportunity to express themselves. A good listener relates not only to hearing the words of the speaker but also to paying close attention to the non-verbal signals (gestures and body language) and sending them back to the speaker. Hearing is a physical ability and listening is a learned skill. Learn it. During our waking hours, we are communicating 80% of the time. At least 45% of that time we should be listening.
- **Show compassion.** when a member is having a family issue or is just going through a rough time. Remember, we never know what a member is experiencing in her personal life. If a member wants to share; just listen to what she has to say. There are times when members just need someone to listen.

Receive members unconditionally...Withhold judgment, welcome diversity of self-expression.

As we continue to grow in our leadership roles, we must constantly nourish the seeds of kindness, love and respect.

"The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action." Mother Teresa

A Journey to the Sacred



Connie Dronette
National Secretary/Treasurer
National Spiritual Enhancement Chairman



© Corey Sipkin

A pilgrimage is a sacred and holy journey. It is a trip that is not meant to simply get away from the mundane, but also to allow oneself to encounter, see, and experience the Divine. It is accomplished by traveling with holy people, visiting holy places, and responding in faith.

Many pilgrimages, including the CDA pilgrimage to Poland, scheduled for last year and this year were cancelled or postponed because of COVID. Travel outside the country continues to be difficult. I was blessed to join the New York CDA in a pilgrimage to Mexico in October. It was my first organized pilgrimage and was a trip of a lifetime. Gazing on the image that the Blessed Virgin Mary left on St. Juan Diego's tilma is impossible to describe. It was a spiritual experience that I will never forget.

When I returned, all I could think of was going on another pilgrimage. One day I want to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Rome. With my present commitments, it isn't a trip that I can take right now, but I have realized that there are some pilgrimages that I can take with my family or CDA sisters right here in the US. I have many on my bucket list, but I decided to do a little research on other sacred places

that can be visited during an extended weekend or over a few days.

I have always wanted to visit the National Shrine of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, on Divine Mercy Sunday. Each year, I always watch the live broadcast on EWTN. The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama, is another shrine on my bucket list. This shrine was built by Mother Angelica and is often seen on EWTN. Does anyone want to meet me there?

There are many shrines dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary around the country. I recently visited a beautiful shrine in Portland while visiting my CDA sisters in Oregon. The Grotto, The National Sanctuary of Our Sorrowful Mother, is a beautiful garden of our Blessed Mother under one of her many titles. A couple of years ago, I attended the National March for Life in Washington, DC. I attended the vigil Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. My mother visited with many of her CDA sisters and had such fond memories of the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. Even though I had seen the pictures that Momma had taken, I was overwhelmed by the beauty and



peace of the Basilica. I had traveled to both of the cities before, but had not visited these sacred places. Now, anytime I visit a new city, I google churches and shrines in the city before I arrive and make plans to visit them.

There are several other Marian Shrines that I want to visit. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary near Baltimore, Maryland, is our country's first cathedral. I hope to visit the National Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, Maryland, that is situated on sixty acres that include lush gardens, a pond, rosary paths, devotional areas, and St. Mary's Chapel on the Hill. The stone Grotto cave was built in 1875 as a replica of the miraculous Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. I hope to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Attleboro, Massachusetts. But the one that is on the top of my list is the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help in Champion, Wisconsin. It is the site of the only approved apparition of the Virgin Mary in the United States. Why not find a Marian Shrine near you to visit?

As many of you know, I have a love for the Saints. I discovered many shrines dedicated to Saints across the

United States. I visited the Shrine of St. Joseph in St. Louis, Missouri. I also visited a Shrine for a Saint in the making—The National Shrine of Blessed Xavier Seelos in New Orleans, Louisiana. I want to visit so many more, and there are so many around the country. There are three shrines dedicated to St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as the Little Flower. They are located in Nasonville, Rhode Island; Royal Oak, Michigan; and San Antonio, Texas. San Antonio is only five hours away from our home, and I have visited many times without realizing it was there. I would love to visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of St. Ann, Mother of Mary, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. There are Shrines dedicated to St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Bernadette, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Francis of Assisi, and many more. Why not find a Shrine that honors a saint near you?

This December, I will be visiting New York City. I can't wait to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral. I hope to visit the National Shrine of St. Mother Cabrini while I am there, too. I will call it my Christmas pilgrimage. Why not find a sacred place to visit this Christmas or New Year? Perhaps, some of your CDA sisters would be interested in joining you! ✨

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it Shine, Let it Shine, *Let it Shine!*



Dawn Fortenberry
National Director

Excitement is in the air at this time of the year. Leaves changing colors, the weather turning cooler, the cheer of the holidays! Aw! I just love this time of the year. We should all be focusing on the changes in our courts, too, especially growing our membership. And there's a **Membership Contest** to add to the excitement!

Are you focused on growing your court? Has your court planned a fun or eventful activity, or a membership drive, to arouse new interest in membership in your court? Many times, we are our worst enemy when it comes to recruitment. We are hidden from the public eye with our great works. Why? Because we don't market ourselves well; let your light shine! Remember it's very important always to let others know who we are and what we do. The wonderful projects your court is involved in can help to grow your membership by including your church parish to help. Ask your parishioners or community to contribute. However, always be sure they know who is leading this endeavor.

Market yourselves. We must brand ourselves for others to hear about us. As Chairman for Membership and Development and being very involved in development for my state, I hear from many pastors and women that they have never heard about the Catholic Daughters. When helping one of our older courts with recruitment, I have heard comments, such as, "I have never heard about Catholic Daughters," and that court has been in their parish for over 100 years. Or, "No one has ever asked me." What does that tell us? We need to work on improving that by letting everyone know about our great organization. Here are a few ideas to help make that happen.

- Put an article in your church bulletin about projects you've worked on, at least monthly, if your pastor allows. Let the world know about your Court and its good works.
- Post flyers around your area focusing on upcoming projects.

- Make business cards for your members with the Membership Chairman's contact information. It's good to include the meeting date, time and location.
- Send articles to your local community paper and your diocesan paper.
- Wear your CDA colors with pride.

Our Membership Contest is in full swing. Remember you are the light of Christ in this world. Go out and shine your light! Join in the excitement, and let's all be winners.

Contact National Director Dawn Fortenberry with any questions – (225)324-8610 or dawnie55@eatel.net ✨



Faithful Women *Set the World on Fire*



Debbie Lattus
Past National Director

Setting off early Friday morning to the Catholic Conference Center in Hickory, North Carolina, Anne Burgan, Immediate Past State Regent of Maryland, and I had plenty of time to chat and catch up during our seven hour drive down the busy interstate.

Three National Officers, Regent, Sherry Nilles, Second Vice Regent, Essie Walker, and Secretary-Treasurer and retreat facilitator, Connie Dronette greeted us with big hugs. National Directors Carolyn Malik, Dawn Fortenberry and Michele Bowman escorted us to our rooms to get settled in.

Representing nine states from the east coast to Texas, twenty-four daughters spent the weekend being “inspired by the stories of women who lived out God’s will in their lives and brought love and hope to the world around them.”

Meals were definitely social times, catching up with old friends and making new ones.

Following Friday dinner our opening session began with an ice breaker, “Three Truths and a Lie.” With heaps of laughter; it was the perfect way to get to know one another!

Ready to learn, we concentrated on Mary and Joseph, our most important saints and the American saints, St. Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Katherine Drexel, and St. Marianne Cope.

Evening prayer in the chapel included the Litany of St. Joseph. As we concluded we departed in absolute silence until gathering for breakfast the next morning. I don’t think I realized how powerful silence can be.

Bright and early Saturday morning before breakfast, we hiked through the peaceful setting to the Ava Maria Chapel quietly tucked away among the trees. There we paused for

quiet personal prayer.

Saturday, was a busy day packed full with the lives of our contemporary saints, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, St. Josephine Bakhita, and St. Catherine Labouré. We then focused on to the “Three Theresa’s,” St. Teresa of Calcutta, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. Theresa of Lisieux. We concluded with “The Brave and the Warrior Saints, St. Cecilia, St. Agatha, and St. Joan of Arc. The life of Blessed Carlos Acutis was also discussed. Following each of the five sessions, we broke into our teams to discuss the saints that had been presented.

Pausing midday on Saturday we prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet and had the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation with Father Ed Sheridan. Our penance prayer was Psalm 103.

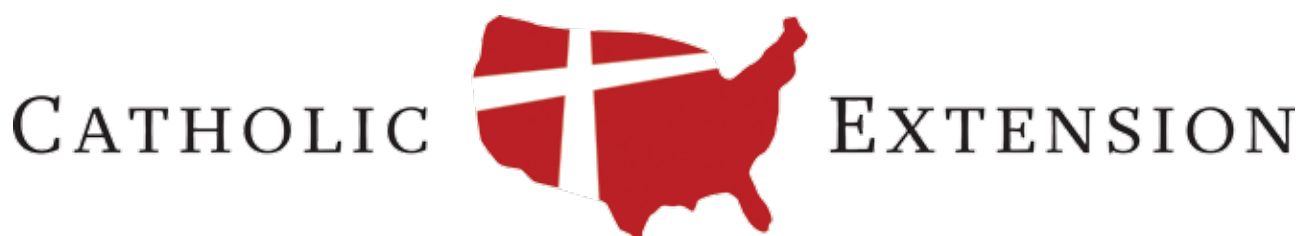
After dark, gathering once again in the chapel, we celebrated Holy Mass with Father Ed. The weekend provided us with the gift of a plenary indulgence, praying for the souls of the deceased.

Enjoyable activities included making a rosary and a banner similar to what would have been carried into battle with St. Joan of Arc.

Ending a full day of learning, we participated in a lively game of Jeopardy, Name That Saint! Who knew we could be so competitive!

The weekend correctly demonstrated that Catholic Daughters are faithful, prayerful women. We truly enhanced our “spiritual life through the lives of the faithful women that had set our world on fire.” ✠

developing leaders — building churches strengthening ministries —



Building Faith | Inspiring Hope | Igniting Change



Tess Cersovski
National Director

Jesus called and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas has responded! Catholic Extension has asked if National CDA would make a commitment to donate \$20,000 per year for five years for a total commitment of \$100,000. This might seem like a huge undertaking, and it is. It is also an opportunity to help the poorest of the poor Catholic communities and dioceses here in the United States.

Why support Catholic Extension? The Catholic Church has given us the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy to follow. They are Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Clothe the Naked, Shelter the Homeless, Visit the Sick, Visit the Imprisoned, and Bury the Dead. By donating money to Catholic Extension, we are helping to fulfill the Corporal Works of Mercy here in the United States.

Catholic Extension is described as one of the best kept secrets in the Catholic Church. Exactly what is it? Wikipedia states, “Catholic Extension is a national fundraising 501

(c) 3 organization which supports and strengthens poor mission dioceses across the United States.”

Catholic Extension was founded in 1905. Serving one in every five people of the United States, Catholic Extension fulfills its mission of working in solidarity with people in America’s poorest regions to build up vibrant and transformative Catholic faith communities. Catholic Extension focuses on six main areas: developing leaders, building churches, strengthening ministries, reaching out to the poor and vulnerable, educating seminarians, and engaging young people. In past years, Catholic Extension gave annual assistance to 550+ seminarians, 770+ scholarships to Catholic universities for lay leaders and religious sisters, and 2,000 grants were awarded to dioceses. Additional grants are awarded to help improve religious residences.

Catholic Extension is fulfilling Pope Francis’ call for all Catholics to be more “missionary.” Catholic Extension’s

educating seminarians reaching out to the poor and vulnerable engaging youths



funding supports isolated and/or financially under-resourced Catholic dioceses in the United States and territories. These “Extension Dioceses” are reviewed and approved by Catholic Extension’s Board of Governors.

Catholic Extension is the only producer of Catholic calendars that gives 100% of proceeds to fund grants that benefit poor mission dioceses where faith is thriving, but the resources are scarce. Many parishes in the United States give out these calendars for free.

More information can be found on the Catholic Extension website www.catholicextension.org. A few of the current articles on their website are

Minnesota priest inspires works of mercy without borders.

Catholic sisters serve as channels of peace among the poor in East Tennessee

Missionary priest serving Native Alaskans receives Lumen Christi Award.

Will you consider helping with this great opportunity to evangelize our Catholic people? Please consider donating through your court or individually to Catholic Daughters of the Americas to help us meet our pledge goal. We encourage local courts and state courts to have special fundraisers for this National Charity.

This is one way we can answer Pope Francis’ call to support the poorest of poor Catholics in our country! Remember, by sending donations for Catholic Extension, we are helping to fulfill many of the Works of Mercy. ✚

FIGHTING COVID: One Wash Cloth at a Time



By Michael Turner

Michael Turner is the son of a Kristin Nelson Turner of Court Morning Star #899, Northport, New York. He is a student at St. Anthony's High School and is kind to share his experience doing volunteer work with the court. He adds, "I originally wrote this essay for a class and then used it as part of my English Honor Society portfolio."

“We must accept infinite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” This quote by Martin Luther King is appropriate today. Our infinite disappointment to me is the pandemic known as COVID-19.

A pandemic is a global outbreak of a disease. This occurs when a new virus surfaces, infects people and is easily transmitted from person to person. Since there is no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it easily spreads worldwide. This is what we are currently experiencing with the virus that causes COVID-19. As this disease rapidly progresses my infinite hope grows stronger to flatten the curve.

A year ago, before our life was what we know of it today, my mother “volunteered” me and a few of my friends to make “wash cloth kits” for her Catholic Daughter Court, Morning Star #899, New York. A wash cloth kit consists of a wash cloth, soap, and various hygiene projects. On a beautiful fall Sunday afternoon, my friends and I settled around the dining room table to watch some football. While watching the game, my mother bribed us with pizza to assemble the wash kits. I was not a willing participant, but the pizza helped the situation. We cut towels into small squares, cut bars of soap into fours, and placed both in a small Ziploc bag along with a few other random hygiene items. I thought to myself how is this really helping anyone? We made several hundred bags and the following Saturday, we delivered the same to Brentwood, which is located on Long Island in New York. This area is predominantly an Hispanic community and there are many homeless located there. I took the bags to a food pantry and begrudgingly handed them out. I again thought this wash kit was almost

useless. Did anyone really need a quarter bar of soap and a small square of a towel? While I worked that afternoon at the pantry and acquired my community service volunteer hours, I thought I would never have to make the kits again. I even voiced this to my mother, repeatedly that day.

Fast forward to March of 2020, the pandemic ... every day in the news was all about the virus that was taking over our lives. Schools were closed, businesses were closed, people were getting sick, many were dying.... Life as we knew it was no longer the same safe bubble. Over and over, we heard the constant reminder that social distancing, hand washing, and disinfecting were of utmost importance to help stop the spread of the virus. Headlines read that the CDC recommends to wash your hands for at least 20 seconds to prevent the spread of COVID -19.

As I was in quarantine with my family, I heard the death toll from this pandemic rise daily, I thought to myself what could I do to help in a small way to end this virus? Brentwood was constantly mentioned in the news for the exorbitant number of cases. Coronavirus has proven most deadly among Hispanics in New York State, hitting Brentwood hard. Brentwood, the community that I distributed wash kits to in the fall, now had the most COVID-19 cases of any community on Long Island. In April 2020, in the early stages of the virus hitting Long Island, there were 3,376 confirmed cases in Brentwood alone. At that time, this figure made up 10 percent of all the cases in Suffolk County. Statistics showed that Hispanics made up 34 percent of coronavirus fatalities statewide in the first month of the virus surfacing on Long Island. I thought about my visit to the food pantry on that beautiful fall day, with what I thought were useless “wash kits.”



While watching television, my new pastime, I saw yet another public service announcement about washing hands to help flatten the curve of this virus. I decided to investigate how washing your hands really helps kill the virus. Pali Thordarson, a chemistry professor at the University of Wales, explains that soaps are amphiphiles. This means soap is a chemical compound possessing both hydrophilic and lipophilic properties. So, the molecules have a dual nature, meaning one end is attached to water and repelled by fats, and the other is conversely attracted to fats and repelled by water. The coronavirus encoded by RNA is surrounded by a coat of fat and protein. Since the chemical bonds holding the virus together are not strong, soap is a perfect annihilator. Then it hit me, the wash cloth kits I once called useless now served a true meaningful purpose.

This was my glimmer of hope. I rallied and collected towels, Ziploc bags, shampoo, multiple hygiene products, and of course SOAP. When I delivered this first batch of wash kits to St. Anne's pantry, there was a coronavirus testing site set up just a block from the pantry. It was daunting to see the police and medical providers in their protective gear at the site. There were lines of people to get tested. I knew I needed to do more so I went home and cut more soap. After I dropped the next delivery, I drove by the testing site again. It didn't look so scary now. It was empty with a sign stating to call if you needed to be tested. In my mind this was a good sign, a sign of hope.



With all of these generous donations collected, I was able to provide over 1,500 wash kits to the Brentwood pantry. This time, when I delivered the kits, I didn't think it was a useless idea. I thought of all the lives that could be saved by stopping the spread of the virus. I thought that I could make a difference and there was hope. Since this time last year with the generous donations from Morningstar #899, my friends, and classmates at St Anthony's High School in Melville New York, and I have continued with this cause. The number of completed kits have sky rocketed, and we will continue with this worthy cause.

The COVID-19 coronavirus has had an impact on us all in some way. The toll it has taken so far is a sobering reality to all of us worldwide. This pandemic has reminded us during these challenging times the importance of kindness and empathy. We must all do our part, no matter how small, to foster healthy communities. Let's wash this virus down the drain. 🙏



MONTANA COURT CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Members of Court St. Mary #645, Livingston, Montana, celebrated their 100th anniversary with Mass followed by lunch and awarding education contest and scholarship winners and ending with a CDA and court history presentation. Court Chaplain Fr. Leo McDowell presided at Mass in which local members and state officers attended. Pictured, front row, Regent Diana McKinlay, Vice Regent Jo Ann Harper, Recording Secretary Joannie Lee, Financial Secretary Janet Naclerio, Treasurer Ginny Aguilar and Fr. McDowell. Middle row, Bridget Yuvan, Bev LoPorto, Sandy Tangan, Priscilla Dysart and Helen Stovall. Back row, Jill Pollock, Glenda Fleming, Mary Siefert, Chris Logan, Mary Ann Moran and Irene Lane.



NINETY-FIVE YEARS HONORED BY NEBRASKA COURT

Court William McDonald #1009, Hastings, Nebraska, which was named for its founding father and pastor, Fr. William McDonald of St. Cecilia Church, celebrated its 95th anniversary at St. Michael's church basement, one of the first meeting places for the court, due to church renovations. A special cake was enjoyed by all. Members with Court Chaplain Fr. Jeremy Hazuka pictured in the photo behind a table featuring a timeline of events and scrapbooks left to right are Connie Consbruck, Wanda Kumke, Peggy Beck, Linda Kuzelka, Regent Jalaene Choquette, Peg Orr, Marie Butler, Mary Jo Keenan, Diane Keenan, Tammie Schik, Barb Butler, Edith Weber, Marie Borino and Joan Nienaber.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS CELEBRATED BY WASHINGTON COURT

Court St. Cecilia #668, Walla Walla, Washington, celebrated its 100th anniversary with the Rosary, a presentation on St. Joseph by Washington State Chaplain Fr. Patrick Kerst, reflections/confessions, Mass, lunch, another presentation, and closing prayers. A reception and a "Roaring 20's Fashion Show" finished the day of celebration. All attending received purple and yellow Rosary beads made by the court and a St. Cecilia Prayer Card. In the photo, front row, Margaret Salazar, Financial Secretary Annette Rime, Virginia Jaspersen, Armida Goeden, Sandra Reynolds, Regent Deanna Smith, Treasurer Elaine Bluhm, Maejul Gannon and Mary Ungerecht. Second row, Mary York, Mary Ann Reinhardt, Helen Didelius, Recording Secretary Mary Anne O'Neil, Vice Regent Monesa Grant, Sister Sharon Bongiorno, Fr. Kerst, Marguerite Daltoso, Debbie Kleinhesselink, and Jacky Luty. Third row, Terry Henkle, Altar Server James Didelius, Altar Server Daniel Balof, Sharon Ferraro, Sami Long Kopelman, Claudia Deccio, Angie Mercado and Kathleen Murr. Not pictured is Patricia Chvatal.



PENNSYLVANIA COURT CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

Court Of Our Lady #647, Johnston, Pennsylvania, celebrated its 100th Anniversary with Mass at St. John Gaubert Cathedral followed by a delightful luncheon for members and spouses. Court members honoring the special occasion can be seen in the photo holding their court banner.



CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED BY SOUTH DAKOTA COURT

Court St. Rita #534, Watertown, South Dakota, celebrated its 100th Anniversary with the following in attendance: front row, seated, left to right, court officers Mary Erickson, Karen Moss, Linda Mitzel and Pat McGregor. Second row, left to right, Lee Corey, South Dakota state officers Lynda Steichen, Michele Sage, Judy Konechne, JoAnn Hoffman and Carolyn Downs. Third row, left to right, Helen Gruba, Sandy Kerkvliet, Past South Dakota State Secretary Deborah Burdick, Collette Van Well, Pat Walder, Dianne Thyen, District Deputy Janet Lynch, Rita Chase and Maxine German. Fourth row, left to right, Elaine Peterson, Rose Steen, Carla McGregor, Past State Regent Brenda Anderson, Clarice Van Well, Gerri DeBoer, Chris Berger, Jo Vitek, Sherry Sellers, Loretta Tobin and Patty Foley.



PENNSYLVANIA COURT CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Court St. Rita #523, Tyrone, Pennsylvania, celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Although the court was instituted in 1920, the celebration was postponed for a year due to Covid-19 restrictions. The festivities began with Mass con-celebrated by Court Chaplain Reverend Father Jozef Kovacik and the Very Reverend Father Joseph Fleming. Mass was followed by dinner and entertainment in the parish hall, including a presentation about the life of St. Rita. A commemorative plaque was presented to the court by Second Vice National Regent Essie Walker. Other guests included Past National Director Peggy Guckin, Past Court Chaplain Reverend Father Joseph Orr, numerous state officers and district deputies, including Pennsylvania State Regent Shirley Hall (a member of Court St. Rita) and representatives from nine other courts. Pictured left to right are Essie Walker, Shirley Hall, Vice Regent Amy Brisbon, Fr. Kovacik, Regent Lisa Gehret, Financial Secretary Sue Gavazzi, Treasurer Donna Cunningham and District Deputy Pat Lutz.



NINETY-EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY FOR LOUISIANA COURT

Court Isabella #809, Morganza, Louisiana, the oldest court in the Diocese of Baton Rouge, held its Memorial Anniversary Mass at St. Ann Catholic Church celebrated by Court Chaplain and Pastor Rev. Babu Nalkara Vareeth. A brunch followed Mass at the family home of Regent Carolyn McCalip. Since many of the court members are senior citizens a golf cart caravan provided transportation that added lots of fun and excitement, as well as safety, for members. Myrna Tuminello added, "The hopes and dreams of our 25 charter members led by the court's first regent Dionysis de la Cruz Dawson are being fulfilled and flourishing due to the diligence of its past and present members." Court officers and members can be seen pausing for a photo during the festivities.



NEW JERSEY COURT COLLECTS BABY ITEMS

Court St. Elizabeth Ann Seton #2124, Riverton, New Jersey, gathered baby items for First Way of Burlington, a local charity that helps moms who choose life and need extra help for their babies. As you can see from the many items in the photo, clothing, diapers, blankets, and other items were enough to fill an entire SUV! The court has been unable to meet, yet still wants to be involved and this project was a wonderful example of the court staying active.



NEVADA COURT HELPS WOMEN IN NEED

Court Our Lady of the Valley #2118, Las Vegas, Nevada, sponsored a special drive-through collection event to benefit Living Grace Homes. The clients of Living Grace Homes are teens and young women between the ages of 14 and 24, homeless, pregnant and/or parenting and in need of a helping hand from a wide spectrum of services including education, medical care, legal matters, workforce training and life skills to succeed on their own, thus breaking the cycle of poverty. Treasurer Leslie Valpiani said, "Parishioners, friends, and members of other courts who made monetary contributions or helped fill a van load of personal toiletries, feminine hygiene products, toiletries and nursing pads truly follow our CDA motto of 'Unity and Charity!'" Pictured with carefully labelled gift boxes, left to right, Susan Buskevicius, Leonie Frisbee, Loy Prado, Kathleen Larmore, Madison Bowe and Bonnie Biscoe. Not pictured: Nicole Hermes, Lourdes Caeg, and Leslie Valpiani.



PREGNANT WOMEN HELPED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Our Mother of Peace and Unity #2487, Livingston, Texas, partnered with parishioners of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Livingston to collect baby items for Grace Pregnancy Outreach, which explains its mission on its website, "Faced with what is sometimes the most agonizing decision of their lives, women who find themselves frightened, confused and alone will find information, care and support at GRACE Pregnancy Outreach." The collection of items started on Mother's Day and ended on Father's Day.



BABY ITEMS DONATED BY NEW YORK COURT

Members of Court Mother Cabrini, #2432, Utica/Rome, New York, hosted a baby shower for the Maternity Ward at Rome Health Hospital. New and handmade baby items were donated at a court meeting and brought to Rome Health. "The Maternity Department was grateful for these items," Annette Marullo said, "and they were eager to pass them along to families that will be excited to receive these beautiful baby necessities." Pictured, left to right, Barb LaMonica, Secretary Annette Marullo, Vice Regent Carol Furgol, Nurse Assistant Amanda Denslow, Linda Ionatti, Pat Ferlo, R.N. Nurse Manager Sarah Fleck, R.N. Leah Davis, Rosemary Valente, Regent Carolyn Trela Ferlo and Mary Halpin. A number of court members who contributed to the project are not pictured.



GREETING CARDS FOR INMATES BY WISCONSIN COURT

Members of Court La Crosse #1183, La Crosse, Wisconsin, met to enjoy a picnic lunch and make 100 greeting cards for inmates at the Monroe County jail to send to their family and friends. The members enjoy this time together to socialize and do good work for the community. They hope that by helping inmates connect to their friends and family and knowing that others are concerned about their wellbeing and are praying for them will assist them in their recovery. Used Magnificat's were also collected for the prison library. In the photo, court members gather around a table filled with the lovely cards they created for the inmates.



ARKANSAS STATE COURT SEWS INFANT BURIAL CLOTHING

Arkansas State Court members met with volunteers from Holy Sews at Our Lady of Holy Souls, Little Rock, Arkansas, to discuss ways in which volunteers can help support Holy Sews, which provides handmade infant burial clothing for families that experience the loss of their baby during gestational weeks 16-25. In the photo, left to right Arkansas State Regent Connie Boutwell, Court Treasurer Laurie Eckart and Holy Sews volunteers Cindy Stabnick and Christy Alsbrook.



ARIZONA COURT INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

As a result of fires surrounding the community where Court St. Gianna Beretta Molla #2634, Miami, Arizona, meets, nearly all court members were evacuated. However, that didn't stop the court from holding its Installation Mass for new officers. The officers, court members and Court Chaplain Fr. Madhu George who celebrated the Mass were all "troopers" in making the installation happen and those who were displaced or otherwise unable to travel to the church hall in person participated via Zoom. Court members and officers in the photo, wearing beautiful white, appear unfazed by their challenging circumstances.



GUAM COURT DONATES FUNDS TO ARCHBISHOP

Members of the Spiritual Enhancement Committee of Court Our Lady of Camarin #2047, Agana, Guam, met with Archbishop Michael Byrnes to present a monetary donation, which was a portion of the proceeds from their 2020 fundraising and almsgiving Lenten Project. The presentation had been delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and the court's 2021 fundraising and almsgiving Lenten Project will be held at a later date. In the photo taken at the Archdiocese of Agana Chancery Office, left to right, Spiritual Enhancement Committee members Beverlyann Borja and LouJean Borja, Regent Marian Aflague presenting the donation to Archbishop Byrnes, Committee Chairperson Elizabeth Untalan and committee members Bernice Burrier and Alicia Iseke.



CHILDREN HELPED BY PENNSYLVANIA COURT

Members of Court Prince Gallitzin #2625, Altoona, Pennsylvania, came together to fill bags for the Gloria Gates Memorial Foundation which explains its website, “we can help children break out of the cycle of poverty, drug abuse, or crime. We can prepare them for a successful and happy future.” The bags contained needed items for children such as warm blankets, books, puzzles, crayons, stickers and more. The members met outside the church rectory and presented the bags to Toni Balik, Executive Director of the Gloria Gates Foundation. Pictured in the photo, left to right, front, Regent Carol Galioto and Toni Balik. Back, Jennifer Crum Waite, Mary Grace Horton, Judy Wood, Annette Ajay, Mary Stoy and Donna Hoover.



BIRTHRIGHT HELPED BY NEW YORK COURT

Court Joan of Arc #604, Haverstraw, New York, held a baby shower for Birthright at the Marian Shrine in Stony Point, New York. “The outpouring of generosity was the Holy Spirit at work,” said Regent Maureen M. Bonanno. “Donations included over \$1,200 in Shoprite gift cards and cash, diapers, wipes, baby clothes and much more.”



TEXAS COURT PRAYS FOR THE UNBORN

Court St. Helen #2330, Pearland, Texas, joined 40 Days for Life in Houston to pray for the unborn, their mothers, fathers, and for the workers of Planned Parenthood. According to Wikipedia, “40 Days for Life is an international anti-abortion organization that campaigns against abortion in more than 60 nations worldwide.” The 40 days this year was from September 22 to October 31. Pictured left to right, Connie Lindsay, Janet Huber, Dolores Koza, Libby Wilkins-Rivas, Cindy Schilhab, Paula Getz, Rhonda Stryk and Pauline Roark.



PATRIOTIC ROSARY BY IOWA COURT

Court Our Lady of Fatima #1492 Manning Manilla, Iowa, held a Patriotic Rosary with fourteen in attendance, including court members Karen Kasparbauer, Nina Rasmussen, Carleen Schwieso, Phyllis Muhlbauer and Mary Hermeling. Carleen Schwieso explained, "We prayed for the conversion of our nation's capital, for the Holy Father, for bishops, priests and religious, for the presidency of the United States, the Supreme Court, the senate and house of representatives, the governors, county and municipal offices and every individual state." In the photo, seated left to right, Vicki Stangl, Duane Stangl, Dale Bueltel, Ella Bueltel and Joan Lafrentz. Standing, left to right, Phyllis Muhlbauer, Karen Kasparbauer, Carleen Schwieso, Nina Rasmussen, Steve Vollstedt, Dennis Kasparbauer, Norma Gross and Connie Huebner.



WISCONSIN COURT VISITS SHRINE

Members of Court Pere Marquette, #58, Door County, Wisconsin, visited Our Lady of Good Help Shrine in Champion, the site of the only sanctioned Marian apparition in the U.S. Members prayed the Rosary, attended Mass and met at the Shrine Cafe for lunch and a brief meeting. In the photo, left to right, Regent Jean Austad, Jane Schwoerer, Mary Lou Schroeder, Marian Mailand, Susan Hunsader and Marilyn Zirbel.



TEXAS STATE HOSTS LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The Texas State Board hosted the Biennial Organizational Leadership Workshop in Pinehurst, Texas. The workshop brings together all district deputies and state chairmen that will serve Texas for the upcoming term. Some of the highlights included participating in educational workshops, a Living Rosary, Mass, fellowship and morning and evening praise. In the photo are district deputies and state officers seated in the front row, left to right, Texas State Secretary Virginia Olsovsky. First Vice State Regent Carolyn Ritchey, State Regent Rebecca Brown, Second Vice State Regent Terrie Vacek and State Treasurer Dela Garza.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL BY MINNESOTA COURT

Court Madonna #839, Wilmont, Minnesota, hosted an ice cream social for active members, potential new members and state and national CDA officers. "Ice cream, toppings, cookies and beverages were served on a very hot day!" explained Regent Theresa Steve. "The best part of the day was receiving five new Catholic Daughters, some of whom are third and fourth generation members of our court, which we think is just wonderful!! After eating, all were invited to stay and visit or play any number of board or card games at the park. We hope to do this again in the future!" Pictured from left to right are National Director Darlene Moritz, District Deputy Lisa Diekmann, Ellen Huneke, Kristina Blackwelder, Shari Joens, Kayla Rodenberg, Taylor Schettler, Jena Joens, Minnesota State Secretary Jeaneen Nelson and National Director Nancy Bambenek.



CALIFORNIA COURT PRAYS ROSARY FOR FATIMA

Members of Court St. John #2526, Fresno, California, joined the Nationwide Rosary for the Sacred Heart of Jesus sponsored by America Needs Fatima. According to its website, "America Needs Fatima is a special campaign to spread the message of Fatima in the United States. The goal of America Needs Fatima is to win the heart and soul of America for Mary by spreading Our Lady's Fatima message and promoting devotion to Her Immaculate Heart." In the photo, standing, Regent Ismaela Muniz-Heiden and husband Michael, Vice Regent Monica Herrera, Celma Chavira, Spiritual Advisor Vicente Garza, Kelly Ortiz and Recording Secretary Mary Vega Harguindeguy. Seated, Spiritual Enhancement Chairman Maria Rios Garza. Knights of Columbus Jeff Abrocambrie also joined the event.



MASSACHUSETTS COURT WELCOMES HOPE LEADER

Court Queen of Peace #2724, Foxboro, Massachusetts, joined members of Knights of Columbus Council #6063 on Father's Day to welcome Catherine Roman of Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center. According to its website, "Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center has been a trusted source of educational material and medical resources in Attleboro and over 30 surrounding communities since 2009. We are committed to serving women and families with grace, honesty and love." Ms. Roman came to St. Mary's church to thank both organizations for their continued generosity and support in Abundant Hope's mission to help women in crisis pregnancies.



BABY SHOWER BY NEW JERSEY COURT

Court Mercedes #769, Woodbridge, New Jersey, and Our Lady of Peace Columbiettes #9199, co-sponsored a "Drive-by, Drop-Off" Baby Shower benefitting Life Choices. Columbiettes is an organization of Catholic women dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Theresa the Little Flower, and St. Joan of Arc, and is comprised of affiliated Auxiliaries of the Knights of Columbus Councils. Life Choices serves mothers and families who are faced with difficult or unplanned pregnancies. Because of Covid restrictions, no in-person meetings were being held, so members came up with the idea of a drop-off event. Pictured delivering the gifts are, left to right, Loretta Zimmer, Eileen Swingle, Maryellen O'Conner, Agnes Gorzka and Mickey Brady.



NEW COURT INSTITUTED IN LOUISIANA

Court Mary Undoer of Knots #2770, Bossier City, Louisiana, was instituted at a Mass celebrated by Reverend James Moran at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Bossier City on March 20, 2021. Nineteen ladies were received into the new court, and the officers were installed by National Director and Louisiana State Regent Dawn Fortenberry. Guests included Louisiana First Vice State Regent Trisha Crombie, Louisiana State Secretary Cindy Vincent, District Deputy Heather Miles and Nancy May, Regent of Court Castile #197, Shreveport, Louisiana. A reception followed hosted by Court Castile. A total of 30 ladies signed the charter of the new court.

NEW MEXICO COURT HONORS FATIMA

Members of Court Santa Cruz #1298, Las Cruces, New Mexico, attended the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the Carmelite Convent. In the photo, members pose for a picture after praying the Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima for the America Needs Fatima Campaign in front of the Dona Ana County Building.



ST. JOSEPH HONORED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Kraljica Mira #2308, Spring, Texas, purchased the Saint Joseph Banner to promote devotion and awareness of The Year of Saint Joseph. Court members placed the banner in the narthex of Saint James Catholic Church in Spring. Court members and parishioners are pictured in the photo, taken after Father Charles Samperi blessed the banner after celebrating Mass.



FOSTER CARE RESIDENTS HELPED BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Members of Court Blessed Sacrament #2024, Westminster, California, have been busy with the court's annual baby shower for Mary's Path. According to its website, "Mary's Path is a nationally accredited Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program for pregnant and parenting youth, ages 12-21, from the foster care system." In the photo, front row, Maria Rodriguez-Cruz, Astrid Klein, Mattha Nguyen and Sherry Wilhoyte. Around the table, Linda Muller, Chandary Tran, Cecil Par, Pat Martin, Judy Siemers, Dorothy Rimoldi, Julie Do, Dorothy Siebert, Rosa Cormier, Maxine Buus, Marlys Hart, Vina Canales, Guest Speaker Michael Seibert, Barbara McGinnis, Kathy Adamson, Maria Mendoza, Faye Antonio, Jan Ulysses, Joan McKnight, Dolores Paredes, Frank Ruiz and Reyna Rice.



BLESSED MOTHER HONORED BY TEXAS COURT

Dressed in their whites, members of Court St. Jude #2363, Laredo, Texas, united to pay tribute to our Holy Mother in May. The court prayed, and flowers were placed at the feet of the Blessed Mother after Mass at St. Joseph Church. Pictured, front row, bottom, left to right, Vice Regent Zeina Ramos, Jewels Hernandez, Regent Zulema P. Ramirez, Teresita Rogerio, Irma Recio, Sandra Carrera and Recording Secretary Olga Duarte. Middle row, left to right, Yolanda Garcia, Treasurer Alicia Molina, Lourdes Ramirez, Financial Secretary Sandra Figueroa and Claudia Rojas. Third row, left to right, Clarissa Gonzalez, Blanca Cruz, Gloria Pena and Ivonne Gonzalez Martinez.



WASHINGTON STATE HOLDS VIRTUAL CONVENTION

National Director Dawn Fortenberry joined Washington State Regent Nanci Cornell, First Vice Regent Kathy Taylor, Second Vice Regent Theresa Trujillo, Treasurer Peggy Schouville and Secretary Ginny Terpening along with Immediate Past State Regent Marie Raschko-Sokol and members from Washington State's 23 courts at their 49th State Convention, held virtually.



OHIO TERRITORIAL COURTS MEET

Members of three Ohio Territorial Courts met for lunch and shared time together with National Director Darlene Moritz. "The day started with a prayer service that was truly inspiring and proof that Catholic Daughters 'Can Do Anything.' When they learned that the Opening Mass was cancelled due to a funeral for their priest," Regent Linda Muller explains, "those women rose to the occasion to think outside the box. Singing and praying goes hand in hand! Our Circle of Love program has the potential to engage women in different areas of their expertise, and it was evident at this summer luncheon. It was wonderful to say the least, and we know that Ohio will be a State Court with the enthusiasm they have and their committed efforts to continue to work to spread the word of Jesus. God Bless them all!" Participants paused outdoors for a picture. Darlene Moritz is far left in her purple jacket.



SOUTH DAKOTA COURT HOLDS LENTEN BRANCH PROJECT

As a Lenten Branch project, members of Court St. Katharine Drexel, #2516, Roscoe, South Dakota, spearheaded the collection of cash, kitchen, office, guest and immediate need items for St. Francis House. St. Francis House is an ecumenical housing program for the homeless offering hospitality, fellowship and support to those in need. They offer special services for reaching long term goals of employment, independent housing, addiction recovery and money management, focusing on a hand-up rather than a hand-out approach. Pictured left to right, GERALYN MALSOM, KATHY GOETZ, COURT REGENT JANET FUHRMANN, LORRAINE UHRICH, DIANE ALLBEE, ROSEMARIE HOERNER and PAST SOUTH DAKOTA STATE REGENT BRENDA ANDERSON. Absent from the photo is Diane Schurr, photographer.



IOWA STATE COURT INVITED BY CATHOLIC CHARITIES

The Iowa State Court attended a breakfast with Bishop Joensen of the Des Moines diocese hosted by Catholic Charities. The state court has contributed to each of the four dioceses from its fall food event and lifesaver project. In turn, Catholic Charities has benefitted from these funds that the bishop has passed on to help those in need through the food pantry, shelter or immigrant assistance. A continental breakfast was served. "It was an intimate setting with 50 in attendance," Iowa State Regent and Secretary to the National Regent Rita Carlson said. "Our state court sponsored a table. The bishop shared his own experience of humility and humanity. There was an opportunity for questions/answers at the end of the program." Left to right, Immediate Past State Regent Karen Kasparbauer, State Secretary Julie Marlow, Leadership Chairman Diane Carr, District Deputy Peg Jacobson, First Vice State Regent Suzanne Torrey and Rita Carlson.



SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH HONORED BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Members of Court St. Raymond, #2057, Dublin, California, made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Joseph, Guardian of the Redeemer, situated on the Santa Cruz bluffs overlooking the Pacific Ocean, to honor the Year of St. Joseph. Court members are pictured surrounding the larger-than-life bronze statue of St. Joseph, Patron of the Unborn, sculpted by Thomas Marsh, dedicated to all who have experienced the loss of a pre-born baby either in miscarriage, still birth, or abortion. The beautiful statue on the floral grounds of the shrine holds a tiny six-month unborn baby as St. Joseph assures all he is personally taking them to the Lord.



NEW YORK ARCHDIOCESE HOLDS MEMORIAL MASS

The past regents and officers of the New York Archdiocese had their 51st annual Memorial Mass to pray for all Catholic Daughters who were deceased since the last Memorial Mass. Eighty names were read and a candle was lit for each member. Father Chris Argano, Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Washingtonville, New York, said the Mass with Immediate Past New York State Chaplain Father Matthew Newcomb as con-celebrant. Assisting were four seminarians from the Minor Seminary in Douglaston and three Deacons Timothy Curran, Barney Kahn and Richard Marino. A luncheon followed at La Casa Vicina. In the photo, New York State officers are pictured in the first row, left to right, Patti Drivanos, state secretary; Connie Breindel, first vice state regent; Theresa Duran, state regent; Tina Bigelow, second vice state regent, and Judy Sterling, treasurer. In the second row, left to right, Heather Rave, immediate past state regent, Helene Shepard, past national regent and regent of the court, Mary Westermann, Secretary and Kathy Muir, Treasurer. Pat Cooney, the Banner Bearer of the host court, Court St. Ann Mother of Mary #2419, Washingtonville, New York. Members of the court were present along with District Deputies and State Chairmen.



PENNSYLVANIA COURT WALKS FOR SPIRITUALITY

Members of Court Clarion #2454, Clarion, Pennsylvania, participated in a two-mile virtual walk on the Rail 66 Trail to support the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center. According to its website, the Villa Maria Education and Spirituality Center "is a sacred setting where God's grace is nurtured and abundant life unfolds. We seek to inspire lifelong learning and growth through relationships with God, others, self, and Earth." Pictured at the Rail 66 Trail, back row, left to right, Pam Hufnagel, Karen McDade and Ann Liska; front row, left to right, Deb Sarbin and Lori Odenthal. The court has also been busy throughout the pandemic baking dozens of cookies for bi-weekly dinners for those in need, hosted by Catholic Rural Ministries of the Oil City Deanery for those in need.

TEXAS COURT HOLDS GARAGE AND BAKE SALE

Regent Marie Hayek of Court Mary Queen of the Snows #1588, Columbus, Texas, decided that members were able to hold their annual garage sale at the St. Anthony Catholic School Gym which was a huge success. Court members also assisted Knights of Columbus in their summer meals with a large assortment of homemade desserts for a bake sale. The proceeds help with local scholarships and charitable activities. In the photo montage, top, garage sale, left to right, Regent Marie Hayek, Chairman Robin Garcia, Kathy Marusik, Lorene Novosad, Dorothy Miksch, Sharon Hall, Jenny Tait and Paula Frnka. Bottom right, bake sale, left to right, Annie Munsch, Fausta Kaiser, Kathy Marusik, Marie Hayek, Peggy Hiatt and newest Member Colette Durbin (not pictured are Bonnie Hartensteiner and Becky Cantu).



NEW YORK COURT HAS FUN FOR EDUCATION

As part of its Circle of Love Family Fun Day, members of Court Madonna #114, Port Jervis, New York, assembled "fun bags" since the court was unable to have its yearly event indoors due to CDC guidelines. The bags, which included activities to promote family togetherness, were given to the families of St. Mary's Religious Education Program. Pictured with a table filled with their fun bags are court members Gina Torres, front; behind the table left to right, Barbara Drew, Violet Dhaniram, Maria Mann and Leonne Gordon.

CALIFORNIA COURT SCORES AGAIN

For the second time in ten years Court Holy Innocents #2446, Victorville, California, has won the "prize" for recruiting the most new members in a year. As a result, the CDA "Traveling Madonna" was hand-carried by California State Regent Mary Bernard to the home of Regent Lucy Reinhardt-Ulatowski. It was then presented to the court at the first open, non-Zoom meeting of 2021 by District Deputy Gina Greear. Since everyone had been vaccinated, a decision was made to safely remove masks for the photo. Pictured, front row, left to right, Diana Pyle, Dianne Madden, Vice Regent Linda Lopez and JoAnn Gaskill. Second row, Cathy Vizzini, Treasurer Lisa Thiem, Shirley Fraser, Alicia Salazar and Anna Watson. Back row, Cindy Wright, Michele Quinn, Lucy Reinhardt-Ulatowski and Past Regent Shirley Kaufer.



MEMORIAL MASS HELD BY SOUTH DAKOTA COURT

Members of Court St. Christina #2336, Lennox, South Dakota, held a memorial service to remember court members who have passed away. Because of the Covid pandemic the court was not able to meet last year for a memorial, so the list of names was quite long. Following an opening prayer those remembered were Marguerite Atkins, Bernice Jorgensen, Jill Ollinger, Arline Hunter, Marsha Oppold, Teresa Oppold Benson, Past Regent-Sherri Zuber, Lois Oppold, Rita Stewart, Frances Ness and Recording Secretary LuAnn Hoogestraat. As seen in the photo, a candle was lit and a rose placed in a vase and a Hail Mary recited for each name announced. The memorial ended with the closing hymn Immaculate Mary.



MARYLAND COURT HONORS MEMBER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Virginia Rhodes, a charter member of Court St. Paul #2274, St. Paul, Maryland, celebrated her 100th birthday and was honored for her contributions as a Catholic Daughter. Virginia has volunteered throughout her lifetime at St. Paul Catholic Church, working on bazaars and dinners held in the early days of the parish, helping with funeral receptions, removing wax from candlesticks and the altar and cleaning the church. She continues to support the court's Circle of Love projects by crocheting baby hats for newborns, prayer shawls for the sick and bereaved, and lap robes for nursing home residents. She received the Medal of Merit from the Archdiocese of Washington. "We give thanks to our heavenly Father," Barbara Zellers said, "for Virginia's faithful service." In the photo, celebrating the occasion are Sharon McManus, Miggy Burns, Nancy Gorman, Elaine DeStephano, Patricia Millholland, Betty Serritella, Carmen LaMonica, Madelene Stone, Sherrie Wade, Joan Donovan, Nancy Wiltz, Joanne Wilson, "birthday girl" Virginia Rhodes, Janie Bell, Terry Butler, Doris Doonan, Patricia Stack, Barbara Zellers, Yvonne Spencer and Joann Zucofski.



OFFICER INSTALLATION FOR HOUSTON COURT

Court St. Rita of Cascia #2707, Houston, Texas, held its officer installation ceremony at St. Benedict the Abbot Catholic Church in Houston. Members at the ceremony in the photo in front of the altar are, left to right, District Deputy Marsha Kreimeyer, Fundraising Supporter Beatrice Beasley-James, Past Treasurer Ophelia Garza, Regent Barbara Brandyberg, Past Recording Secretary Lisa Williams, Volunteer Support Chair Rutanya Allen, Recording Secretary Carlous Smith, Financial Secretary Hilda Turner and New Member Geneva Solomon. Officers and Member not pictured are Vice Regent Frances Garza, Treasurer Armanda Rodriguez, Community Member Outreach Chair Cindy Wilson-Wright, Elta Alvarez, Sylvia Garcia, Antonia Lopez, Betty Lopez and Returning Member Antonia Robinson.



COURT CHAPLAIN HONORED BY NORTH DAKOTA COURT

Court St. Elizabeth #170, Minot, North Dakota, celebrated the retirement of their long-time Court Chaplain Father Bruce Krebs at his final court meeting. Pictured at the event, front row, left to right, Father Krebs, Pat Richter, Gloria Niess and Bonnie Brunner. Back row, left to right, Elaine Benson, Miranda Hagar, Jeanie Roman, Cathren Deckert, Alisha Randal, Myrt Charlebois and Arlene Fiedler. "We appreciate Father's many years of spiritual direction and friendship," Pat Richter said.



NEVADA COURT HONORS PRIEST

Court Our Lady of the Rosary #2226, Las Vegas, Nevada, presented a gift on Priest Appreciation Day to Father Tony Udah of Holy Family Church. Seen with a bright smile holding his gift is Father Udah, center, with Mary Vodrazka, left, and Vice Regent Kathleen Burns.



NEW YORK COURT CELEBRATES PRIEST ORDINATION

Court Nilan #985, Highland, New York, celebrated a Votive Mass with their newly ordained priest, Father Matthew Breslin. The court has been supporting Father Breslin for the past seven years as he studied at St. John's University and St. Joseph's Seminary for the Archdiocese of New York. Father Breslin was ordained a priest in St. Patrick's Cathedral by the Archbishop of New York Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan. Several members of the court were blessed to be in attendance. Father Matthew has been a parishioner of St. Augustine since childhood and attended St. Augustine School as well as Our Lady of Lourdes High School in Poughkeepsie. He is the first priest to be ordained from the court's parish since its founding over one hundred years ago. Father Breslin can be seen in the photo surrounded by well-wishing Catholic Daughters and Father John Lynch.



NEBRASKA COURT CELEBRATES MEMBER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Genevieve Rose of Court Ave Maria #1263, Grand Island, Nebraska, enjoyed her 100th birthday with five priests concelebrating a Mass at St. Mary's. A special blessing and happy birthday were led by newly assigned Pastor Rev. Jorge Canela. Genevieve has been a member of St. Mary's most of her life, receiving her sacraments there. A reception was held at Cathedral Square where Genevieve's family, court members and acquaintances celebrated her birthday and 71 years membership in Court Ave Maria. Genevieve served as court regent from 1954-1955. Special guests included Nebraska State Regent Betty Fredericks, visiting court members and retired priests.



TEXAS COURT HONORS PASTOR

Members of Court St. Ann Mother of Mary #2649, La Vernia, Texas, surround St. Ann Catholic Church Pastor, Reverend Phillip D. Henning, at the parish pot-luck dinner prior to his departure on a medical leave. Those photographed include, seated, Elaine Stephens and "Father Phil." Standing behind them, Nannette Kilbey-Smith; Doris Cormier; Bettie Trainer; Regent Pam Javior; Rosemarie Kotara; Blanca Gomez-Wittmer; Mary Wahl; Gloria Bocanegra; and Gloria Garza. Notice the bright smiles and happy face as the court wishes Father Phil well!



DAUGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARDED BY LOUISIANA COURT

Court Assumption #1672 Franklin, Louisiana, held their Daughter of the Year Banquet. Catholic Daughters of the Year winners were Janell Comeaux and Suzanne Chauvin. Charlotte Blanchard explained. "We had two winners this year. We are very honored to have these two ladies in our great service and look forward to working with them for many years to come! A well-deserved award to Janell and Suzanne." In addition, receiving their 25 years of service award during the festivities are Suzanne Chauvin, Susan Gaines, Emily Guillotte, Patty Lou Hidalgo, Cora Bouton, Regent Dale Nash, Marie Schexnaildre and Linda Veitinger. Awarded their 50-Year pins were Myrtle Boudreaux and Marion Pusateri. In the photo, Janell Comeaux is seen with family and friends.



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Maria Galante #115, Austin, Texas, welcomed Katelyn Farris and Lisa Marie Guerro as its two newest and youngest members to take the pledge and join the oldest court in Texas. Court Maria Galante is known as the Mother Court of Texas with over 110 years of service to the church and community. Pictured, left to right, Katelyn, Regent Catherine Longoria and Lisa Marie.



NEW CHAPLAIN FOR IOWA COURT

Court St. Anthony #330, Council Bluffs, Iowa, installed Deacon John Pfenning as the new Court Chaplain/Spiritual Advisor. Deacon Pfenning generously agreed to serve after the departure of Immediate Past Chaplain Fr. Tom Thakadipuram who was reassigned to other Iowa communities. The installation ceremony took place in the St. Patrick Church sanctuary. The court currently has a membership of sixty-one from all three parishes in the city. More than twenty-five members attended. The installation included a Mass offered by Pastor Fr. James Ahenkora. Deacon John was presented with a chaplain lapel pin. A reception followed the Mass. In the photo applauding their new chaplain, left to right, Vice Regent Felicia Davidson, Regent Carol Hollenbeck, Deacon John, Fr. Ahenkora, Recording Secretary Angie Shea, and Treasurer Jan Roth.



MEMBER OF NEW YORK COURT CELEBRATES 73 MEMBERSHIP YEARS

In January Josephine "Josie" Rillo will celebrate 73 years as a Catholic Daughter. She was a founding member of Court of the Holy Family #1498, Deposit, New York, at age 21 in January 1949. For 40 years, St. Paul's Church in Hancock was her parish, and she was one of the first Eucharistic ministers. She was on the bingo and Altar Rosary Society committees and was "Junior Choir mom." Josie is very proud of her Polish heritage, loves to dance the Polka, spend time with friends and family, and play cards, especially pinochle. She's a great baker and has baked for many church and community events over the years. Above all, it is her family that means the most to her. That includes her daughters Angela Possemato and Connie DiNovo, three grandchildren, their spouses, and the "apple of her eye," her great-grandson Landon. Photo credit: Dino Petrocelli, Jr.



NEW YORK COURT INSTALLS OFFICERS

Court St. Anne #866, Piermont, New York, installed new officers in June 2021. In the photo, left to right, Kate Armstrong, Valerie Valentine, Fr. Tom Kunnel, Lucille Zuccaro, Theresa O'Dowd and Christine Mooney.



MEET NEVADA'S NEW STATE OFFICERS

On June 26 of this year the Nevada State Court Installation of Officers took place. In the photo, left to right, National Director Dawn Fortenberry; First Vice State Regent Regina Couvrette; State Regent Leonie Frisbee; State Chaplain Fr. John McShane; Second Vice State Regent Kathleen Burns; State Treasurer Leslie Valpiani.



PENNSYLVANIA ANNOUNCES WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Past National Director Peggy Guckin received the "Woman of the Year Award" during the Pennsylvania State Convention in April. Peggy has been a member of Court Rose Cecilia #1641, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for almost 50 years. During this time, she has unselfishly offered her time, knowledge and experience to her home court, within the Philadelphia Diocese, Pennsylvania State Court and as National Director.



IOWA COURT HONORS 60-YEAR MEMBER

Members of Court St. Andrew #1540, Sibley, Iowa, celebrated Shirley Klosterman's 60 years of membership. She was gifted with a 60-year pin, CDA blanket, and a cake to share with residents. Shirley held several officer positions during her years with the court. Shirley can be seen in the photo with the gifts she received.



WASHINGTON STATE HOLDS JOINT INSTALLATION

Court Blessed Mary of the Narrows #2003, Tacoma, and Court Our Lady of the Lakes #1850, held their installation of officers and reception of new members on Pentecost in May. New officers, priests, members from both courts and well-wishers can be seen in the photo on this special day.



LOUISIANA COURT INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

Officers for Court Padre Pio #2141, Cottonport, Louisiana, of St. Mary's Church, were honored to be installed by Reverend Rusty Rabalais who was born and raised in St. Mary's Church Parish. In the photo, left to right, Regent Vickie Mayeux, Vice-Regent Sharon Juneau, Treasurer Colleen Armand, Financial Secretary Irma Andress and Secretary Andrée Brouillette.



NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED BY NEW MEXICO COURT

Court St. Helen of the Cross #2435, Portales, New Mexico, installed new officers. Pictured, left to right, Veronica Cordova, treasurer; Neva Ortega, recording secretary; Cindy Ortega, regent; Tanya Baca, vice regent; and Veronica Montano, financial secretary. In the back row is Yvonne Garcia, district deputy, who was present to install the new officers. All members present followed the distancing guidelines, wore masks during the business meeting, enjoyed refreshments and congratulated the new officers after the meeting.



CALIFORNIA COURT HONORS MEMBER

Court Compton #942, Compton, California, said farewell to Past Court Regent and California State Treasurer Jo Bryant. At Mass Father Gilberto, Pastor of Our Lady of Victory, and Father Domingo, presented Jo with a certificate of appreciation followed by a reception brunch. "Jo has moved to Florida to be with her family but plans to stay as an active Court Compton member," Regent Yvette Manard said, adding, "We will miss our sister!" Look at the upbeat picture of court members having fun at the reception!



NEW YORK STATE CELEBRATES MEMBER'S 100+ BIRTHDAY

In planning an important event, New York State encountered a pleasant birthday surprise. Past National Regent Helene Shepard explains. "As a result of doing the Past Regents and Officers Memorial Mass, we discovered that Theresa Letteriel is 104 years old. She was the fourth President of the Past Regents Chapter in the Archdiocese. She is known for doing the Annual Raffle for the Foundling Hospital for many years. She is presently a member of Court St. Clare #912 in Staten Island. Happy Birthday Theresa. Many more years are wished for you!" The photo was on display at the luncheon. In the photo, members celebrate with Theresa while she sits in front of her birthday cake surrounded by her well-wishers.



TEXAS COURT RAISES MONEY FOR SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

Court Mother of the Americas #2506, Fort Worth, Texas, held a Bake Sale on Palm Sunday to benefit the parish school, St. Peter the Apostle. A check for two scholarships was presented to the school principal. In the photo, left to right, Veronica Wingen, Irene Holguin, Rachel Emond, Reverend Pedro Martinez, Principal Lisa Giardino and Joan Ford.



TEXAS COURT AWARDS WORTHY RECIPIENTS

Court Loving Mother of Mercy #2689, Brownsville, Texas, held a Corporate Mass celebrated by Court Chaplain Fr. Robert Moreno, Jr. The court honored the Blessed Mother and presented two \$500 scholarships to high school graduates who are members of the court's parish, Our Lord of Divine Mercy. The recipients are two dedicated young men who have served the parish as choir musician, altar server and lector for over ten years. Luis Cacayoren will be attending the University of Southern California and Steven Betancourt will be attending the University of Texas. In the photo, Luis, on the left, and Steven, right, are holding their award certificates surrounded by well-wishing court members dressed in white.



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED BY IOWA COURT

Court Queenship of Mary #1806, Waucoma, Iowa, awarded a scholarship to Erin Busta. The award was presented to Erin by Regent Carole Burke at the Turkey Valley Community School's Award Program. In the photo Erin, left, holds her scholarship while Carole looks on.



IOWA COURT PRESENTS EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

Court Our Lady of Good Counsel #216, Fort Dodge, Iowa, honored National Education Contest winners. Pictured, left to right, Regent Christina Rosch; Nora Kate O'Connor, who won 2nd Place in the National Education Contest for Computer Art, Div. II; Maggie Lennon, who won 2nd Place in the National Education Contest for Music Div. III; and Iowa State Regent Rita Carlson.



FUND RAISING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS BY TEXAS COURT

Members of Court Our Lady Queen of the Lake #2364, in Lake Jackson, Texas, had to be creative to continue giving scholarships to the graduating seniors at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School. Due to restrictions caused by the pandemic, an outdoor yard/ bake sale and drive-thru chicken spaghetti pick up and take-home dinner were major fundraisers. As a result of these special efforts the court was able to award \$4,000.00 in scholarships to five students at the senior Mass. In the photo, front, David Duran, Sophia Massey, Presenter Janet Gipson, Meghan Schwertner, Kaitlyn Futschik and Addison Atkins. Back, Deacon Joseph and Fr. Dwight. Not pictured: Scholarship Chair Juanita Oppermann.



TEXAS COURT AWARDS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Court Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima #2596, San Antonio, Texas, awarded the First Valeria Ann Brandt Memorial Scholarship with a special award program and reception. The scholarship was established in memory of Past Regent Valeria Ann Brandt. Pictured, left to right, Circle of Love Chairperson Elena Rodriguez, Scholarship recipient Christopher Andrew Alvarez, (who will be attending the University of the Incarnate Word in the Fall) and Educational Chairperson Jay Benson. Regent Maria E. Juarez said, "Brandt will forever live in the heart of all CDA members who knew her."



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED BY CALIFORNIA COURT

Court St. Joachim #2553, Madera, California, awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Mia Valdez who will be attending San Joaquin Memorial High School in the Fall of 2021. Pictured, left to right, front row, Jeanne Bryan, Joann Martini, Regent Victoria Cazares-Pajarillo, Scholarship Recipient Mia Valdez, Rosie Valdez and Linda Parkhurst. Back Row, Linda Lamaack, Ruthanne Harbison, Corrine Machado, Charlene Stanley, Lovy Patchell, Lydia Perez, Norma Barnett, Lupe Saludado-Cavazos and Lupe Trevino.



EDUCATION CERTIFICATES AWARDED BY TEXAS COURT

Court Immaculate Mary #2134 Angleton, Texas, awarded education contest certificates and prizes to students of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School in Richwood, Texas. In the photo on the left, left to right, grades four to five, Regent Blanca Ochoa; Zadan Lara; Anthony Salazar; Amanda Jasso; Avery Lewis; Persephone Snyder; and Education Chairman Carol Peltier. In the photo on the right, left to right, grades six to eight, Regent Blanca Ochoa; Aryahi Kadiyala; Ryan Martinez; Ava Gamino; Penelope Muholland; Bill Nguyen; and Audrey Mulholland.



IOWA COURT HONORS PRAYERFUL LEARNING

Students from St. Andrew Church were awarded a certificate and a special ice cream gift card provided by Court St. Andrew, #1540, Sibley, Iowa, for learning all the prayers assigned to them at religious education classes. Court members Jerri Palsrok and Bonnie Gregg assist in helping the children learn their prayers on each Wednesday evening of classes. Standing in the back showing his support for the children is National Clergy Consultant Father Siby Punnoose.

Priest and Beggar:

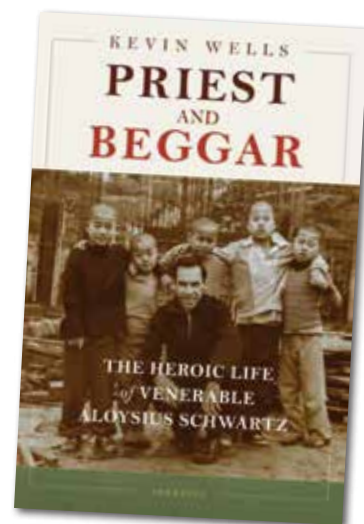
The Heroic Life of Venerable Aloysius Schwartz

By Kevin Wells

(Ignatius Press, San Francisco, CA 2021)



Reviewed by
Peggy Eastman



My hometown is Washington, D.C., which is known for sometimes divisive politics, not saints. So I was happily surprised to read about the humble, faith-filled Aloysius Schwartz, a priest who grew up in Washington and was known simply as Father Al.

He founded the Sisters of Mary, a religious order dedicated to the care of the sick and orphaned, and built homes and schools for orphans worldwide known as Boystown and Girlstown. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Father Al, who died on March 16, 1992, was declared venerable by Pope Francis in 2015, and his cause for canonization is now in process. There is a prayer for his beatification at the end of the book.

Reading this book about his life is a challenge to all of us to consider how we can be more Christ-like in our own lives. This is “radical discipleship,” to use the words of the Most Rev. Thomas Daly, bishop of Spokane, Washington. I was rocked by the depth of poverty Father Al encountered, and I was overwhelmed by how Father Al gave his all to those he served – even keeping up a full schedule of saying Masses while struggling with the serious neurodegenerative disorder amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease). He routinely worked 16 to 18 hours a day.

Author Kevin Wells, a former Major League Baseball writer, has given us a meticulously researched biography – complete with photos showing Father Al during his ministry to the poor – of someone who never sought the limelight and gave his life for impoverished and abused children. Wells is the current president of the Monsignor Thomas Wells Society, which is dedicated to the promotion of strong priests and seminarians.

Father Al grew up poor, and lived among the poor for all of his life. After his ordination to the priesthood in 1957 he asked to be sent to the saddest place in the world: South Korea after the Korean War. In the prologue, author Wells describes how Father Al stepped off the train in Seoul as a fresh-faced 27-year-old priest, discovering a living horror show: “Squatters with blank stares picked through hills of garbage. Paper-fleshed orphans lay on the streets like leftover war landmines. So he

reached down to lift up one child, then another.”

In Father Al’s own words, written as he remembered those early days in Korea, he wrote: “It looked like the end of the world. Everywhere I looked I could see squalor, shacks, shanties, slums, and refugees. I remember passing a beggar on a street corner, wrapped in rags, his hand outstretched, rocking softly back and forth, and whispering to himself, ‘a chuwo, a chuwo’ (so cold, so cold).”

I wish I could report that Father Al carried out his missionary work to those most in need without opposition, but that was not the case, as this biography makes clear. Unfortunately, as the chapter called “Storms” reveals, a conflict developed between Father Al and a Korean bishop. The bishop wanted to reshape the Sisters of Mary order which Father Al had started, making it more academic and using the Sisters as teachers in Catholic schools. Father Al worried that this would compromise the Sisters’ mission to serve the poorest of the poor by direct service. The relationship between the American missionary and the Korean bishop deteriorated, and the bishop considered Father Al a “renegade American missionary.” Then Father Al came up against a man who wanted him dead: a corrupt criminal who had risen to power and gamed the system in social welfare management work. This man was a true villain who cared nothing for the poor and needy and built a dangerous network of crime.

As I read about Father Al’s troubles, I thought of how Jesus was opposed by the Pharisees and Scribes in His own time, and how they sought to trap him. Jesus, a man of love, was killed in a horrific way. Those who follow the Master are often persecuted as well, and persecution of Christians goes on today in some parts of the world. We need examples of people like Father Al who stand firm and pursue the work of radical discipleship despite the oppression of outside forces. As he was dying from ALS, Father Al wrote, “My role, now, is more and more similar to that of Jesus on the cross...I believe God gives me this pain and suffering. I believe at the same time he gives me the strength and grace to accept it, endure it, and cope with it.” ✠



In the Spirit of our founder,
Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.,
we wish you and your family
the blessings of this most
holiest of seasons.

Father Willy Raymond, C.S.C.,
& everyone at Family Rosary

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Stays Together*



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