Serving Needy Haitians

Puerto Rico: an Island of Bounty and Beauty

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Overcoming Challenges with Heart

My dear sisters in Christ,

As I sit to write this letter I cannot help but remember my past weekend. I attended the graduation of my granddaughter Sarah from St. Mary’s University. The commencement speaker was 26-year-old Courtney Klein, CEO of New Global Citizens. She started the organization at the age of 21. The organization’s mission is to educate, empower and invest in young people to change the world.

She started this organization with a $1,000 grant. She told the graduating class not to let anyone tell them it could not be done. All they need is to want to take action towards solving the world’s greatest challenges and to have the passion to do it.

I was very proud to have my granddaughter listening to this young lady. She definitely gave graduates the spirit to follow their dreams. Congratulations to all the Catholic Daughters of the Americas members who have children or grandchildren who have graduated from high school or college. Go forward, young people, to reach all your goals.

By now all the courts should have elected officers. Congratulations to all the newly elected court officers. The National Board is most grateful to you for answering the call to accept this leadership role, and we wish you the very best. We are here to help you in any way we can. Please remember that you and the members of your courts can do anything you want and you can meet any challenge. All you need is the passion to do it. I know all of you have the passion and love for our organization. Thank you to the retiring officers for your past service. Please continue to give your support to the incoming officers and to your court because they need you.

The national convention is but a short while away. All the New York CDA members have been working so hard to make this convention all you have wanted it to be. We, the members of the National Board, have also been working to make this convention a memorable one for you. The workshops, the liturgies, the business meetings, and the special events have all been planned with you in mind. I am not saying that we have not had our challenges but they also have been worked out with passion and love for our organization. We are all looking forward to welcoming all of you to Buffalo.

“I do believe that when we face challenges in life that are far beyond our own power, it’s an opportunity to build on our faith, inner strength, and courage. I’ve learned that how we face challenges plays a big role in the outcome of them.” — Sasha Azevedo.

May all of your challenges have good outcomes and may your faith be strengthened by them.

Libby Ramirez

Mission Statement

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

About the Cover

Many volunteers have flocked to Haiti to help the neediest of the needy. For the story of one, Catholic Daughter, nurse and grandmother Mary Loftus, please turn to page 12.
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Puerto Rico: an Island of Bounty and Beauty

Catholic University Continues the Tradition with Catholic Daughters Lecture

The Little Pill that Changed the World
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The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has 85,000 members in 1,328 courts in the United States, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.
Letting Go Gracefully

My Dear Catholic Daughters,

How often do we say to ourselves or to another, “Let it go?” Physical disability has forced me to swallow my pride and “Let go” of many things. Thirty years ago I climbed ladders and placed lights on 20-foot blue spruce trees that decorated the diocesan cathedral for Christmas. Now, I watch and try not to shout too many instructions to someone else atop the ladder.

Parents usually have difficulty letting go as they wave goodbye to a child leaving for college or walk the child to the altar on their wedding day. Love and parental instincts make them want to shelter their children from the harshness and disappointments of life. Roles may be reversed when children become overly protective of elderly parents and deprive them of their independence.

The need to control causes tension within families, governments, organizations, and among world leaders. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas are not exempt from such stress. Local and state courts, along with the national court, experience it. I see an officer’s, chairman’s, or district deputy’s term as a slide down a rope hanging from a high ceiling. A member spends years climbing the rope to reach the top (the position desired). Once there, it is a brief, two-year slide down the rope. When reaching the end, one must let go and make room for those who follow. Sometimes this doesn’t happen. At the end of the rope they can’t let go, so they tie a knot and hang on. This only creates obstacles for those who follow.

Letting go is not the same as quitting. An outgoing leader shouldn’t be like a baseball player who pitches seven innings then showers and leaves the stadium, but she should be like the true team leader who moves to the dugout and supports the players on the field. Members leave office with a better understanding of the workings of CDA and with a wealth of experience. They can be a resource where future officers can go for information, ideas, and encouragement, and they can be invaluable as committee and project chairmen.

My time as national clergy consultant ends soon after the convention in Buffalo, New York. I have enjoyed the experience and have a deeper appreciation for the dedication of the National Board and office staff. I have sat through lengthy meetings in the past, but none that outlasted National Board and committee meetings. In addition to regular meetings, the officers and directors are constantly on the go visiting state, territorial, and local courts.

My CDA journey began almost 30 years ago when I became a court chaplain in the early 1980’s. I attended my first national convention in Portland, Oregon, and most conventions since then. My state and national career parallels that of our national regent Libby Ramirez. We have journeyed together, and it has been a wonderful trip. I have come to truly “love” the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and cherish my association with an organization that has done so much for so many over the past century. As I let go of my present role, I will never quit CDA. I will continue to offer my support to the courts and especially to the clergy consultants who come after me. When I am not able to be with you physically, I will always be with you in spirit.

Keep up the wonderful work and never quit, but instead, prepare the path for those who will come after. May God bless you.

Rev. Donald R. Ruppert
National Clergy Consultant
East Bernard, Texas
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Spiritual State of Readiness

If you watched the most recent winter Olympics, broadcast from Vancouver, Canada, you may have been struck by how very fit the competitors were. Athletes know all about the need to maintain a state of readiness for downhill ski races, marathons, ice dancing, tennis tournaments, track meets or whatever sport they pursue. The training is constant and goes on all year; it is impossible to gear up for an important athletic event in days or weeks.

Athletes know that unused muscles quickly become flabby, unconditioned lungs soon become winded during vigorous exercise and hearts that are not trained to pump oxygen-rich blood efficiently flag under stress. So they get up at 4:30 a.m. to go to the ice rink, spend eight hours a day hitting a tennis ball, hit the track whether they feel like running or not or visit a gym to work with machines that build muscle strength.

Similarly, we followers of Jesus soon find that we need to maintain a constant spiritual discipline, a state of readiness for the Lord. This readiness includes a receptivity to His word, set forth in the Scriptures, and to His command to love one another as He loved us. We are in constant training for Jesus. How do we know we need to be perpetually ready for our Savior? Because Jesus Himself told us so.

Jesus said, “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour” (Matthew 25:13). And He precedes this admonition with the well-known parable of the wise and foolish virgins, five of whom were prepared for the bridegroom (the Lord) and five of whom were totally unprepared. The five wise virgins understood the importance of having their lamps – and the oil to light them – ready at all times. The five foolish virgins had their lamps, but no oil to light them – so the lamps were useless.

In this parable the bridegroom comes at a somewhat inconvenient time: midnight, when most people are in bed asleep. But the wise virgins, prepared with their lamps and their oil, go out to greet the bridegroom joyously. They bring light to meet the Light of the world. We know what happened to the five foolish virgins: after unsuccessfully trying to borrow lamp oil from the prepared maidens, the unready ones go traipsing out into the night to try to buy oil from merchants. At midnight? What were they thinking? While they are gone, the bridegroom comes and the prepared ones go in to the marriage feast, symbol of the heavenly banquet. The door is shut, and when the foolish virgins come tardily and beg entrance, they find no admittance. This parable expressing a state of readiness for Jesus is so powerful that it inspired one of the most famous and best-loved of Johann Sebastian Bach’s works, Cantata No.140, Wachet auf (Sleepers awake).

Jesus knew all too well about lack of preparedness for His coming. Consider His birth: the little town of Bethlehem was ill-prepared to welcome Him, so ill-prepared He was born in a stable with a manger for animals as His first crib. Had the townspeople known who He really was, would they not have made ready with the best room in the best inn and gifts overflowing to lay at His feet? But, like the foolish virgins, they lost an opportunity, and what an opportunity it was: to welcome God’s own son, the newborn Savior, as He deserved to be welcomed into the world He came to save.

Even top athletes sometimes stumble in their physical training. So we sometimes fall short in our spiritual discipline. Some days may be so hectic that we neglect our Bible reading or our prayer time. Some evenings we may be so exhausted that we fall asleep over a passage of Scripture and make our way into bed without finishing it. That is normal; we human beings are flawed, no matter how well intentioned we may be. We have responsibilities and crises; daily life makes incessant demands, and we grow weary.

But, like an athlete who recommits to a training regimen, we can recommit ourselves to spiritual readiness. We can set a special hour aside for our Bible reading, choosing a time when we are not so tired. We can make a list of the prayer needs of those close to us and carry it around with us, pausing to pray when our day gives us a few moments to ourselves. In short, we can make sure we always have enough spiritual oil for the lamps that burn inside us, so that when the Savior comes in radiant light, we can run and greet Him joyously with light of our own, whatever the day or the hour.
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Celebrating Dr. Seuss' Birthday By Reading to Children

For the third year Court St. John the Baptist #2073 in Alvin, Texas, observed “Read Across America” in conjunction with the local library. Regent Mary Cortinas and member Lori Candrian read to the children a bilingual book entitled *The Banjoman*. After the reading, the children were treated to cookies and juice in the library’s meeting room. Each child then received a small, handmade stuffed bear wrapped in its own blanket, which was presented as their new “reading buddy.” Court members also donated approximately 50 books to the library.

Front row, left to right, are CDA members Diana Hill, Edye Raburn, Regent Mary Cortinas and Lori Candrian. Back row, left to right, are Lucy Gutierrez, Librarian Carol Baca, Sandra Brannon, Nancy Cuello, Joyce Chiasson and Barbara Walker.

Colorado Clean-Up

Court Sacred Heart #1606 in Cortez, Colorado, is “cleaning up” – the highway, that is. Court Sacred Heart has taken on this task thanks to long-time Catholic Daughter Lucy Gasaway. Lucy is assisted by many fellow members who volunteer periodically to help keep the local Colorado highways clean. The volunteers on this particular cleaning day are, left to right, Regent Darlene Sichta, Virginia Bechtold, Jane Drechsler, Alice Vialpondo, Lucy Gasaway and Laurie Montano. Not pictured are Pat Bowman and Barbara Haynie.

New Jersey Court Walks for Autism

Ten members of Court Our Lady of Mercy #1655 in Sea Isle City, New Jersey, walked in the second annual Polar Bear Walk/Run for Autism on Sunday, February 14 as part of the city’s annual Polar Bear Weekend. Funds raised help with autism research and awareness. Walkers paid a $20 registration fee and Court Our Lady of Mercy donated $100.

Autism walkers, left to right are Nancy Portland, regent, Vera McQuillen, Mary Monichetti, Anne Koch, Claire Lamb, Janice Gheysens and Florence Diamond. Kneeling in front are Millie Fenimore and Barbara Marcasciano. Not present for the photo was Geraldine McDonnell.
Puerto Rico Court Sponsors Local March for Life

On January 18, 2010, Court Jesus Nazareno #2345 in Isabela, Puerto Rico, coordinated a pro-life march. The march, which took place in Isabela, was supported by local community, youth and many young children accompanied by their parents. At the end of the march 30 white crosses, symbolizing the millions of children lost to abortion annually, were placed in a nearby lot.

Minnesota Court Showers Babies With Gifts

Court St. Margaret #1888 in Eveleth, Minnesota, sponsored a Birth-Rite baby shower at Resurrection Catholic Church in Eveleth. More than 340 assorted gifts were donated by court and parish members, including sleepers, outfits, diapers, receiving blankets and essential care items. The gifts will be distributed by a local agency that assists pregnant teens and women.

Hammers Pound and Walls Rise in Arizona

Rain and wind didn’t dampen the spirits of the Arizona Catholic Daughters at the wall raising for their Habitat for Humanity house on February 20, 2010, in Marana, Arizona. Arizona State Regent Susan Mone presented a check for $25,000 as the final payment on the new house. The Arizona Catholic Daughters raised $55,000 and the balance of $30,000 was paid from the national fund.

National officers present were National Regent Libby Ramirez, National Regent-Elect Joanne Tomassi, First Vice National Regent Anne Nelson, Second Vice National Regent Shirley Seyfried, Shirley’s husband Dave Seyfried (who was the official photographer), National Director Duchess Collins and National Parliamentarian Cecina Koeijmans. Arizona State Chaplain Rev. Abran Tadeo began each day with a prayer and blessing for the building team and for the family who will live in the house, which is just one block from his parish.
Louisiana Court Presents Scholarships to Schools

On February 21, 2010, Court Massabielle #1134 in Morgan City, Louisiana, presented scholarship donations to Central Catholic High School and Holy Cross Elementary School. In honor of Catholic School Week, the court presented $1,000 to Central Catholic High School and $1,000 to Holy Cross Elementary School.

In the photo are, left to right, Ina Miller, treasurer, Vic Bonnafie, principal of Central Catholic High School, Sundra Deshotel, regent, Mamie Bergeron, principal of Holy Cross Elementary School, and Lana Domino, vice regent.

Massachusetts Juniors Celebrate JCDA Day

On February 21, 2010, current and past members of JCDA Court St. Joan of Arc in Framingham, Massachusetts, celebrated National Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day. Court Chaplain Albert Stankard celebrated a liturgical Mass which was followed by a collation in the parish hall. Court St. Joan of Arc co-advisors Christine Goodreau and Connie Pagan, Massachusetts first vice state regent, awarded Our Lady of Guadalupe medals and achievement certificates to the juniors for making the proclamation of faith and walking in this year’s March for Life in Washington, DC.

Massachusetts State Regent Linda Coletti presented Court St. Joan of Arc President Kristie Vasquez with a plant to nourish as a symbol of nurturing the junior court’s growth. Members of the Massachusetts State Board and Catholic Daughters from across the state shared the event with the juniors, and Framingham selectwoman Ginger Esty sent greetings and a signed proclamation.

New York Welcomes New Junior Court

The institution of JCDA Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 in Babylon, New York, received much support from Catholic Daughters, family and the community. The installation ceremony was moderated by New York State Youth Chairman Debbie Stellakis. Other New York state officers assisted in the celebration, and parish clergy and staff were present. Court member and musician Jean Cooper and friends enhanced the evening with prayerful song.

District Deputy Theresa Ryan proclaimed the first reading. Court Chaplain Deacon Mike Leyden blessed the new officers with a mix of reverence and humor as each junior took charge. The charter members of Court Bishop McDonnell #1403 are Jill Clancy, Laura Clancy, Caroline Dunn, Treasurer Devon DeRubio, Jennifer Leinbaugh, Olivia Lulley, Brianna McNulty, Spiritual Coordinator Grace Ann Onishea, Sabrina Pacheco, Vice President Spencer Reilly, Raven Sessa, Recording Secretary Claudia Weldon and President Faith Yusko.
Court Recognizes Junior Achievements on National JCDA Day

Court St. Paul #1604 in Shiner, Texas, celebrated National JCDA Day on February 21 by presenting nine members with religious recognition pins. The pins were awarded during Mass at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner. Angelette Siegel received a “Family of God” pin, “I Live My Faith” pins were awarded to Juliette Siegel and Trinity Kusak and “Mary, The First Disciple” pins were presented to Mary Adamek, Bethany and Emily Pokluda, Alexa Schaefer, Nicolette Siegel and Samantha Siegel.

Front row, left to right, are Juliette Siegel, Emily Pokluda, Trinity Kusak and Angelette Siegel. Back row, left to right, are Carolyn Malik, Texas first vice state regent and religious advisor, Bethany Pokluda, Nicolette Siegel, Samantha Siegel, Mary Adamek, Alexa Schaefer and Rev. Bob Knippenberg, court chaplain and pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church.

Court Helps Children Become Better Readers

Court Our Lady Queen of the Lake #2364 in Lake Jackson, Texas, visited the Memorial Child Care Center and read to the children. Two of the selections read were If You Take a Mouse to the Movies and If You Give a Cat a Cupcake. Each young reader had an animal to act and assisted with reading the selection.

Back row, left to right, are Isabel Respondek, Allison Pottratz, Mary Montague, Carmen Read, Shirley Girouard and Patty Matus. Not pictured is Pat Williams. Front row: children at the Memorial Child Care Center.

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough. Meister Eckhart

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Last year, Mary, mother of seven and grandmother to 16, and a retired nurse after 23 years at Nyack Hospital in Nyack, New York, was selected to participate in a program started by the Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH), a non-profit organization whose medical teams bring healing and hope to thousands of Haitians each year. Haiti has a tremendous need for medical assistance: there is much disease, malnutrition, diarrhea, and dehydration.

Mary spent two weeks at the FOTCOH Clinic in May of 2009, and later that year, she spent two more weeks at the clinic in November. During a two-week stay, a team sees more than 2,000 patients. Because of FOTCOH, children survive, children who otherwise would have gone without care and died. Mary and the other members of the team are volunteers in this project, and pay for their own air flights, as well as $600 for room and board at the clinic.

The FOTCOH medical clinic, where the medical team not only works but lives, is located on 16 rocky wooded acres in Cyvadier, a ramshackle town on Haiti’s southern coast, far-flung and desperate for medical care. The clinic was built by paid Haitian laborers and financed by FOTCOH funds. Haitian patients, many of them barefoot, walk for hours to get to the clinic, and then stand in a long line to be seen by a doctor or nurse.

When Mary was away from Haiti, she still thought about this country and its people. Mary gave Court St. Anne members a fascinating account of her work at the clinic, showing her slide show which combined the beautiful scenery and the beautiful people with photos of squalid and intensely poor conditions. She announced that she would be returning in November, and she asked Court St. Anne members to help by donating needed supplies. They did.

In September, Mary told the court about the clinic’s program to sponsor a child. Court members discussed adopting a child ($25 per month would ensure that a child would be educated. Since students are not allowed to be barefoot at school, this would involve the purchase of shoes for the child). By October, the court had decided to sponsor two adoptions: Alexa, aged five and Avril, aged four. Two Court St. Anne members also sponsored children on their own. Mary was able to photograph these children when she returned to the clinic in November and bring photos back to us for our December meeting.

When Mary left for Haiti in November, she had a broken hand. She was still enthusiastic about her trip. “It is something I have always wanted to do,” she said, adding that she was really looking forward to using her skills as a nurse to help make the Haitian situation better. “I can’t wait to see them again,” she says of a people who have so impressed her with their calmness, patience, and gratitude. She felt they had great needs and she wanted to be part of helping these very special people. Her nursing specialty is diabetes, and she has plans of creating diabetes brochures in Creole that patients could read while they waited on line.
When Mary left Haiti in November 2009, the Haitian problems were unemployment, poverty, disease, malnutrition, diarrhea, dehydration, bare feet and a poor education system. That was before the January 12, 2010 catastrophic magnitude 7.0 Haitian earthquake with an epicenter approximately 16 miles from Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital.

The disaster, affecting three million people, was especially personal to Mary Loftus and the Court St. Anne membership. It was with joy that we learned that Alexa was seen and was O.K., and that the clinic had been only slightly damaged. We have not yet heard about the welfare of our other little sponsored girl.

Court St. Anne became very busy in response to the earthquake crisis. Ethel Zimmerman’s newsletters kept everyone informed about things that were happening and what could be done. Louisa Palermo made many beautiful pajama sets, delicately trimmed with lace, and also made many cloth dolls to be distributed at the clinic. Connie Lynch sponsored luncheons for the benefit of earthquake victims.

An afternoon tea benefit was planned through the efforts of Carol Racca, Mary Ann Beckerich, Barbara Volpe, Ann Marie Flynn and Louise Zucarro. More than 100 members and friends attended the tea, and thanks to the generosity of restaurant owner Sean Slattery, the court made a contribution of $2000 to the FOTCOH Clinic.

On Friday, May 7, Mary was presented with the Humanitarian Award: Outreach in Haiti at the Hands of Hope Gala sponsored by One to One Learning. Her May visit was the first time she saw Haiti after the earthquake. The clinic, which is only 23 miles from the areas of devastating destruction, has survived the crisis well, while other buildings and nearby homes in the town have collapsed. This is a credit to the building talents of the FOTCOH architect and crew.

Other members of the medical team refer to her as “New York Mary.” Who knows? Perhaps someone will offer her a Flying Nurse set of wings to wear on her tee shirt. 😊

Sherry O’Leary and Janet Zahn are members of Court St. Anne #866 in Piermont, New York.
The breathtaking beauty and bounty of Puerto Rico didn’t escape Christopher Columbus’s attention. He came to the Island on his second voyage to the New World in 1493, naming the town Puerto Rico (“rich port”) and the island San Juan; the two names were later switched.

Over the centuries, Puerto Rico’s strength shifted from military to economic, and it became the only Caribbean island where industry and commerce exceed agricultural production. In 1898, Puerto Rico came under U.S. control as a result of the Spanish-American War. Puerto Ricans became American citizens in 1917, and the Island was granted U.S. Territory status. Puerto Rico is the smallest of the Greater Antilles. Its 3,435 square miles make it roughly the size of Connecticut. Puerto Rico is a melting pot of cultures -- Taíno (Native Indian), Spanish, African, and North American. They converge in the food, music, language, architecture, religion, lifestyles, arts and crafts.

**Court Beginning**

Rafael Martinez Alvarez, a lawyer and the “Gran Caballero” (Grand Knight) of San Juan’s Knights of Colón, helped by Joaquin Ferrán from Ponce, contacted the Isabella Daughters of New York in 1921 to come to Puerto Rico to start a chapter of their order. They installed the charter courts of the Puerto Rico Catholic Daughters of America: Court Santa Fe #548, in Caguas, Court Granada, #549, in San Juan, Court Isabel La Católica #606, in Ponce, Court Santa Rosa de Lima #612, and in Bayamón Court Castilla #626, in Río Piedra. Court Joana d’Arc #635, in Arecibo, was disbanded around 10 years later but in 1938 it was reinstalled in Arecibo with the same #635 but with another name – as Court Santísima Trinidad. In 1921 there were 170 charter members. Today Puerto Rico has 24 active courts and approximately 870 members. The courts are located throughout the state – in the north, south, east, and west.

The support of the seminarians is very important to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. At each convention the bishops are presented checks which represent the donations from all the courts in Puerto Rico. It is very impressive to see the seminarians attend the convention to thank the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for their support and the help they receive throughout the year.
Making a Difference

The State Court of Puerto Rico has been recognized for the National Make a Difference Day projects. Members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas work side by side to make the projects outstanding. The projects range from rebuilding a school to helping a senior citizen renovate her home. This year they also visited the Home School Sor María Rafaela for Abused Girls.

They work with alcohol and drug rehabilitation facilities, especially with Hogar Divino Jesús and others. Their volunteer work with this facility has lasted 15 years, and it has taught the members to fully understand the joy of giving oneself to others.

The members work actively within their communities to promote awareness of issues important to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. They have participated for 16 consecutive years in the Puerto Rico Pro Life March in front of the Puerto Rican Capitol. They also organize their own marches in different towns with young people and children in attendance. To campaign against pornography, they organize and participate in marches and programs in schools including programs broadcast by radio, and they participate in the white ribbon campaign.

Strong Junior Program

The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas were and are Puerto Rico’s pride and treasure. During the eighties, there were 19 courts and 2,000 members. From 1965 to 1989 11 Juniors were officers in the National JCDA Court. They were remarkable examples of responsibility and commitment for the youth. They still have the JCDA in Puerto Rico. The senior court members continue to be an inspiration for the girls who dare to be instruments of the Lord in their communities.

It has been my pleasure to be the national representative for Puerto Rico. Having the opportunity to meet so many of the ladies at their state convention in 2009 helped me to realize that, though we may be separated by the sea, we are connected by our faith and charity. The bounty of Puerto Rico is best revealed in the people who call the island home and serve God with love and compassion.

The Miracle of Mary

From the vaults of Family Theater Productions comes the incredible story of “Our Lady of Fatima.” This 59-minute DVD features a dramatic reenactment of the apparition of Our Lady to three shepherd children in Portugal in 1917. Originally broadcast in the 1950s, this Family Theater Classic is a wonderful and inspiring story about the miracle of Mary and her messages of salvation and praying the Rosary. “Our Lady of Fatima” is a great program for the whole family!

As seen on EWTN!
American female saints featured

Catholic University Continues the Tradition with Catholic Daughters Lecture

By Joanne Tomassi
National Regent-Elect

One of the great accomplishments of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas took place on October 2, 1974, when we established a Chair in American Catholic Church History at The Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. The endowed chair provides valuable scholarship and increases the influence of American Catholic life and thought, both nationally and internationally. Since 1991 the Chair has been held by Dr. Christopher J. Kauffman. Dr. Kauffman has been instrumental in arranging the annual CDA lecture selecting many scholarly speakers throughout the years.

Prior to the start of the lecture, this year, Msgr. Kevin Irwin, dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at Catholic University, offered a prayer and thanks to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for our continued support. He then introduced National Regent Libby Ramirez who welcomed and thanked those in attendance as well as Dr. Kauffman for making the arrangements for this event. She then expressed thanks to Dr. Joseph White, associate professor of American Catholic History, and Dr. Margaret McGuinness, guest lecturer for the day.

Dr. McGuinness, chair of the Department of Religious Studies at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, is a professor at LaSalle and the co-editor of American Catholic Studies, a quarterly journal sponsored by the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia. Dr. McGuinness’ topic was “They’re No Angels: Reflections on American Catholic Female Saints.”

This certainly sounded interesting and intriguing and probably was cause for one of the largest number in attendance in many years. There were Catholic Daughters from Washington D.C., Virginia, Texas and New York as well as members from our campus court in Washington, D.C. Also in attendance were four of the national officers; Libby Ramirez, myself, Anne Nelson, and Shirley Seyfried, Immediate Past National Regent Claudia Bosch and two national directors: Helene Shepard and Letty Calvetti. In addition there were many members of the academic community at Catholic University.

Dr. McGuinness spoke about four of the eight American saints, mentioning that five of the eight were women whereas the normal ratio is 75 men to 25 women. Dr. McGuinness said she hoped we would “gain a deeper and richer insight into American Catholicism” by the study of these women of heroic virtue. She went on to give each of the four saints a special title: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, “God’s Care Giver”; St. Mother Theodore Guerin, “God’s Pioneer”; St. Frances Cabrini, “God’s Asimile”; and St. Katharine Drexel, “God’s Advocate for the Racially Oppressed.”

Each of these women had a great influence on society and Catholicism during their lifetimes. Dr. McGuinness stated, “We focus too much on the sanctity and not enough on the person.” I believe those in attendance at this year’s lecture were greatly enriched by a further understanding and deeper knowledge of the impact of these American saints. It is with deep appreciation that I extend my thanks to National Regent Libby Ramirez for the opportunity to attend this year’s lecture and share a few words about it with all Catholic Daughters through Share Magazine.
The Little Pill that Changed the World

By Margaret Sitte
Chair, National Legislative Chairman

The little pill that changed the world has been on the market 50 years. The birth control pill has probably changed society more than any other factor. It has spawned the sexual revolution, caused major health problems in millions of women, and created environmental havoc.

Feminists who first pushed the pill told women how “free” they would be once they could be in charge of their own fertility. Women took the bait, but no one informed them that emotional, physical and spiritual scars would follow. The website ThePillKills.com lists many of the pill’s side effects, including depression, nervousness, blood clots, strokes, heart attacks, and cancer.

Sexual promiscuity comes at a high price. The United States Department of Health and Human Services reports that more than 65 million Americans have an incurable sexually transmitted disease, with 13 million new cases each year. In 2005 the World Health Organization classified oral contraceptives as Type 1 carcinogens (cancer-causing agents). The following year, “Mayo Clinic Proceedings” published an analysis in which 21 of 23 studies proved the link between oral contraceptives and breast cancer. One of the authors, Chris Kahlenborn, M.D., said, “Anyone who is prescribing oral contraceptives has a duty to tell women that 21 of 23 studies showed an increased risk.” The analysis said overall risk for breast cancer increases 44 percent, with younger women especially susceptible. Kahlenborn told Physicians for Life, “There’s a growing sense that it’s really just a matter of time before the lid blows on this thing... We will start seeing a new attitude towards the pill, and it will be fueled by lawsuits.”

Writing in the May 2 issue of “Our Sunday Visitor,” Professor Janet Smith uncovers “the string of lies” that supports the pill. For instance, most women never learn that birth control pills prevent implantation of fertilized embryos, causing early abortions when women aren’t even aware they are pregnant. Smith says by forgetting to take the pill one day or by taking the pill at a different time, women may ovulate, conceive and abort without ever knowing it.

Smith reports that 50 percent of women who have unwanted pregnancies and more than 50 percent of women having abortions say they were using a contraceptive when they became pregnant. Was the pill designed to fail to foster the billion-dollar per year abortion industry?

It is ironic, of course, that early in the last century Margaret Sanger, an Irish Catholic, developed and promoted the first contraception methods, which ultimately led to legislative and Supreme Court decisions favoring abortion. Her organization eventually became Planned Parenthood. It seems that a Catholic was a distant source of our major legislative troubles today.

The pill also has serious detrimental effects on the environment. In 2005, the University of Colorado randomly netted 123 trout downstream from the city’s sewer plant: 101 female, 12 male and 10 “intersex,” possessing both male and female features. Scientists determined that the high level of estrogen and other steroidal hormones—residual effects of birth control pills and patches in the water — caused the intersex changes.

University of Colorado biologist John Woodling told the “Denver Post” “It’s the first thing that I’ve seen as a scientist that really scared me.” Scientists are studying whether increased infertility in men can be traced to excess estrogen in the water supply.

The National Council of State Legislatures reports that a few state legislatures are studying the issue of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water. Sewage and water treatment plants are not required to monitor drug traces, and most are not equipped to remove the drugs. Reverse osmosis, which a few cities have implemented, is the one process that removes most drug traces, but it is more expensive than regular water treatment methods.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has set standards for 90 contaminants, but only monitors one pharmaceutical drug, nitroglycerin. Benjamin Grumbles, assistant administrator for water at the EPA, said the federal government plans to analyze the issue further. “We recognize it is a growing concern and we’re taking it very seriously,” he said.

The pill has had many unintended consequences. While the secular press celebrates this 50-year milestone, informed citizens need to continue to discuss its long-term personal, societal and environmental consequences. Perhaps the states should take the lead by introducing legislation to monitor and reduce pharmaceutical pollutants in the nation’s water supply.
Texas Court Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

Court Maria Galente #115 in Austin, Texas, celebrated its 100th-year anniversary with a luncheon at the Green Pastures Restaurant followed by a corporate communion and Mass at Saint Mary Cathedral in Austin. Rev. Donald Ruppert, national clergy consultant and Texas state chaplain, was keynote speaker. National Regent Libby Ramirez and Texas State Regent Sheila Martinka also addressed the gathering. Court Maria Galente is affectionately nicknamed “The Mother Court of Texas” because it is the oldest active court in the state.

Court Commemorates 75 Years

Court St. Joan of Arc #1224 in Del Rio, Texas, celebrated its 75th anniversary on Sunday, February 7, 2010 with Mass followed by a celebratory banquet. Newly-organized JCDA court members participated in the Mass and festivities. State officers attending included First Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik and District Deputy Anna Chapman, who is also Court St. Joan of Arc regent.

Court Enjoys Fifteenth Anniversary Celebration

Court Bishop Enrique San Pedro #2390 in San Benito, Texas, celebrated its fifteenth anniversary by attending corporate Mass, and with the fourth annual Pre Posada Dance. Charter members were presented with 15-year CDA pins and members of the Junior court joined the celebration.

Texas State Regent Sheila Martinka, right, and Melissa Counihan, regent of Court Maria Galente, display a commemorative plaque showing 100 years of service by the court.

First Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik, third from left, in the gold and white state officer’s robe, is joined by Court St. Joan of Arc and JCDA members at the anniversary celebration.

Senior court and junior members gather during the Court Bishop Enrique San Pedro anniversary celebration.
New Jersey Court Dedicates 90th Anniversary

Court Giese #439 in Gloucester City, New Jersey, presented spiritual bouquets to 10 clergymen as part of its 90th anniversary celebration, which the court dedicated to the “Year of the Priest.” Mass was concelebrated at St. Mary’s Church by Monsignor James P. Curran, pastor of St. Mary’s Church, and Rev. Steephan Chellan of St. Mary’s Church.

Top row, left to right are Rev. Stephen Chellan, New Jersey State Regent Miriam Cicalo, First Vice State Regent Dolores Berardicelli, State Secretary Nancy Portland and State Treasurer Theresa Dietrich. Middle row, left to right are Gail Vila, regent, Court Mater Creatoris #1808; Cecilia Brennan, vice regent, Court Mater Creatoris #1808; and Grace Peters, regent of Court St. Katharine Drexel #2327. Bottom row, left to right are Connie Rossi; Maryann Crosson, treasurer; Elizabeth Purden, financial secretary; District Deputy Alice Mendell; Dawn Toal, regent; Joanne Pulaski, vice regent; District Deputy Lillian Henderson of Court Mater Creatoris; Margaret Considine, recording secretary; and District Deputy Dot Paster of Court St. Katharine Drexel #2327.

New Jersey Court Celebrates 85th Anniversary

Court Regina Coeli #940 in Dunellen, New Jersey, celebrated its 85th anniversary on February 21, 2010 with a Mass celebrated by Court Chaplain Rev. John C. Siceloff at St. John the Evangelist Church in Dunellen. Mass was followed by a luncheon at Carpaccio’s Restaurant featuring guest speaker Rev. Monsignor William B. Benwell, J.C.L., vicar general, Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey.


First Court West of the Rockies Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

Court Oregon #118 in Eugene, Oregon, which was instituted on October 3, 1909 with 36 charter members, began its hundredth-year celebration with a Mass at St. Mary’s Church in Eugene. Mass was concelebrated by Archbishop of Portland Most Rev. John G. Vlazny, Oregon State Chaplain Rev. Scott Vandehey, Court Chaplain Rev. Mark Bachmeier and Rev. Richard Rossman, pastor of St. Peter and St. Mark churches. A luncheon and celebratory program followed Mass, during which National Director Lorayne Zimmerman presented the court with a plaque from the National Board.

Oregon state officers attending included State Regent Sharon Buchanan, First Vice State Regent Sheila Schiedler, Second Vice State Regent Irene Duda, State Treasurer Mary Saunders and Immediate Past State Regent Dorothy Gall. Also celebrating were Past State Regents Maria Loefller (1986-88) and guest speaker Gloria Amport (1988-92). All court officers joined in the celebration. Junior Catholic Daughters were altar servers and banner bearers at Mass, then served lunch and provided entertainment. Flowers were presented to Catholic Daughters who have been members for more than 50 years, including: Pearl Dotson, Lucille Fastbender, Margaret Feiss, Gladys Hammar, Julia Kappenman, Pauline McLaughlin, Cleora Mersdorf, Marcella Sokolsky and Adella Stewart.

Front row, left to right, are Martha Lynch, vice regent, Millie Hoffman, recording secretary, and Anna Marie Blume, treasurer. Second row, left to right, are Rev. Scott Vandehey, Oregon state chaplain, Oguilvia Skelton, financial secretary, Most Rev. John Vlazny, archbishop of Oregon, and Kay Gillette, regent.
Colorado Court Honors Charter Members at Golden Anniversary

Court Sangre de Cristo #1810 in Alamosa, Colorado, commemorated its 50th anniversary with Mass celebrated by Court Chaplain Rev. Derrek Scott and a reception in Father Scott’s backyard. During Mass charter members Helen Apodoca, Frances Glynn and Ellen Romero were honored. Father Scott presented court members with pins for years of service. Special guests included Colorado State Regent Evelyn Irving and Colorado State Secretary Kathern Lopkoff.

Michigan Court Celebrates 90 Years

Court Kalamazoo #386 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, observed its 90th anniversary with Mass celebrated by Rev. Mike Regent and a program entitled “Our Past, Present and Future.” Following Mass those gathered for the occasion shared a delicious meal and enjoyed conversation in fellowship. Honored guests included family, friends, the entire Michigan State Board and Catholic Daughters from other Michigan courts.

Texas Recognizes 71-Year Member at 72nd Anniversary Celebration

Court St. Monica #1262 in Olfen, Texas, marked its 72nd anniversary by honoring Adeline Beach, who has been a Catholic Daughter for 71 years. Also recognized were charter members Agnes Fuchs and Irene Bruchmiller, who were unable to attend. Doris Halfmann, LaVerne Gully and Mary Lou Multer received 60-year pins and Harriet Fischer, Charlene Matthiesen and Bernice Halfmann received 50-year pins. The German heritage celebration theme included a meal of sauerkraut and sausage followed by a German Chocolate cake.

Anniversaries

When sending in a photo for a court news item, please be sure to send a print even if you are using a digital camera.
Court Honors Catholic Daughter of the Year at 88th Anniversary

Court Lady of the Lake #695 in Lake Charles, Louisiana, celebrated its 88th anniversary on November 1 and presented Gussie Fazzio with the 2009 Catholic Daughter of the Year Award. Gussie received the award for her dedication to Church, community and family. Mass was celebrated at Conception Cathedral Church in Lake Charles, followed by a restaurant banquet at which Monsignor Jace Eskind was guest speaker. Patsy Benoit, Verla Guidry and Frances Nocilla were recognized for their 25 years of membership. The CDA banquet was organized by co-chairmen Karen Fills and Neida McCurry and committee members Barbara Guillotte and Mary Alice Lauw.

Past Regents Receive Corsages at 90th Anniversary

Celebrating its 90th anniversary, Court St. Rita #409 in Perham, Minnesota, presented past regents with corsages, after which the former regents were escorted into church by court officers Sophie Zvonar, regent, Denise Schornack, financial secretary, and Dianne Rohde Szarke, Recording secretary. The Mass in honor of the court’s 90th anniversary was celebrated by Father Joe Herzing.

In addition to its support of National Projects, like many courts across the nation Court St. Rita is very active at the local level, supporting the Perham Area Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels, Relay for Life, St. Henry’s Area School and St. Henry’s Vacation Bible School. The court also sponsors the Red Cross Blood Drive, a Valentine party for the residents of the Perham Memorial Home, the New Parishioner Welcome Booklet and the Divine Mercy Holy Hour.

Nebraska Court Celebrates 40 Years

Court St. James #2007 in Kearney, Nebraska, celebrated its 40th anniversary with Mass followed by a potluck luncheon. Among the special guests were Second Vice State Regent Nancy Brown, State Treasurer Barb Jensen, District Deputy Shirley Chramosta, three charter members and four past regents. Also present were members from courts in nearby Hastings and Broken Bow.

Past Regent Elaine Sluti was mistress of ceremonies. During the festivities State Membership Co-Chairman Margaret Ryan recalled how she helped organize Court #2007, robes and mortar boards (worn in the past), were modeled, and a history of changes in the CDA over the past 40 years was presented.

Montana Court Celebrates 95th Anniversary

Court St. Katherine #239 in Glendive, Montana, began its 95th anniversary celebration with the rosary, which was followed by Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Glendive and then a brunch prepared by Past State Regent Pat Boner. The proceeds of the brunch, which was served by local Knights of Columbus members, were donated to local charities. Special guests included State Regent Mary Smith and Past State Regent Frances Zachman.
New Jersey Court Celebrates Golden Anniversary

Court Mater Creatoris #1808 in Williamstown, New Jersey, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a luncheon at the Scotland Run Golf Club. Among the honored guests were State Regent Miriam Cicalo, State Treasurer Theresa Dietrich, District Deputy Lillian Hendrickson and Court Chaplain Rev. Victorino Coronado. All court officers were present: Gail Vita, regent, Cecilia Brennan, vice regent, Pamela Tighe, treasurer, Helen Stellacio, financial secretary, and Donna Dienno, recording secretary. Special thanks were expressed to long-time members Anna Romolino and Gerry Dare, who, during their Catholic Daughters membership, have sewn more than 4000 baptismal bibs.

Proudly displaying the Catholic Daughter “Unity and Charity” banner, members of Court Mater Creatoris and honored guests gather for their golden anniversary celebration.

Golden Anniversary in South Dakota

Members of Court St. Pius X #1827 in Waubay, South Dakota, began their 50th anniversary celebration with morning Mass, in which they served as greeters, ushers, gift presenters, Eucharistic Ministers, cantor, organist and the entire choir. A catered buffet dinner was then served followed by a program in which a video was presented that included pictures from the court’s scrapbooks.

Past regents and the five living charter members were honored, as was a 60-year member who had transferred into the court. Court St. Pius X #1827 was instituted on November 29, 1959, in Waubay, under the leadership of Rev. Pius Mardian. Father Mardian who was unable to attend, sent greetings.

Five charter members are from left to right, Janet Popp, Helen Butler, Francis Pischke, Adeline Tracy (Court St. Pius X’S first regent) and Vendella Ceroll.

Court Celebrates 95-Year Milestone

Court Our Lady of Victory #234 in Houston, Texas, celebrated its 95th anniversary with a Mass and luncheon at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Pictured are, top row, left to right, Regent Kate Garza, Marjie Phillips, Vera Vasquez, Rosie Corona, Delfina Vara, Rosie Quiroga and Court Chaplain Deacon Michael St. Julian. Middle row, left to right, Leonore Garcia, Virginia Vara, Mary Alonzo, Vice Regent Mary Lou Castillo and Financial Secretary Cynthia F. Jones. Bottom row, left to right, Ruth Le Blanc, Recording Secretary Mary Chavez, Paula Garza, District Deputy Vernell Kasper, Catalina Borrego and Angela Jimenez.
New York Court Celebrates 90 Years

Court McLaughlin #422 in Sarastoga Springs, New York, celebrated its 90th anniversary with an afternoon Mass at St. Mary’s Church followed by a dinner and reception at the Knights of Columbus Banquet Hall. Regent Anne Senecal was toastmistress, Vice Regent Eileen Tuohy and Recording Secretary Aileen Thomas were co-chairmen. Guests included State Secretary Marlene Nalli, District Deputy Mary Farrell, and members of New York courts including Court Stella Maris, Court McDermott, Court St. Catherine and Court Catherine Esther.

New York Court Celebrates 85th Anniversary

Seventy-four people including court members and special guests gathered to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Court Morning Star #899 in Northport, New York. After attending Mass, a brunch was held at the Indian Hills Country Club. Festivities included a display of pictures entitled “down memory lane” and entertainment by the “Song Birds” to remind those present of the “good old days.”

Pennsylvania Court Honors Woman of the Year at 85th Anniversary Celebration

Court Doyle #932 in Coudersport, Pennsylvania, celebrated 85 years. Jennifer Weiss was presented with the Woman of the Year award. The anniversary celebration included Mass, a catered dinner and an events program. Guests included State Secretary Peg Rafferty and members of Pennsylvania courts in Erie, Corry, Sheffield and Kane.

Jane Sevinsky was honored for more than 70 years of membership and Natalie Masolotte and Theresa Bruzzi were recognized for 60 years. Fifty-year membership pins were presented to Alice Cizek, Carol Predmore and Dorothy Wennin. Membership roses were given to Mary Fleckenstein for 40 years with the Catholic Daughters and to Caroline Easton, Linda Castano, Bea Sonnekalb and Margaret Turbett for 35 years. Twenty-five year membership pins were presented to Colleen Major, Judy Castano, Natalie Stenhach and Pat Turton.

Jennifer Weiss, left, receives her Woman of the Year plaque from Regent Bea Sonnekalb, right.
Arizona Court Holds Red Hot Rummage and Bake Sale

Court Our Lady of Lourdes #2278 in Sun City West, Arizona, realized more than $14,000 from the court’s annual rummage and bake sale on February 27, 2010. The sale was one of three fund-raisers the court holds annually, the other two being a spaghetti dinner in October and “cookie walk” at Christmas. In the photo, selling the “red hot deals” in the boutique section of the rummage sale, seated, is Rose Marie Schaefer, court spirituality chair and director of the boutique; standing to the right of the formal gown on the mannequin are left to right, Mary Morris, vice regent; Alice Duffy, of the court meeting reception committee; and Connie Sherrard, court roster, mailing labels and name tag chair.

Arkansas Court Sponsors Lenten Activities

Among the 2010 Lenten activities of Court Our Lady of the Holy Redeemer #2574 in El Dorado, Arkansas, was its Quarterly Holy Hour in the Lady Chapel at Holy Redeemer Parish in El Dorado. Court members were led in morning prayer by Court Chaplain Rev. Gregory Pilcher, OSB, pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish, followed by the recitation of the rosary and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Court members were joined by fellow parishioners.

Arkansas Court Raises Funds With Meatless Meals

Court Our Lady of the Holy Redeemer #2574 in El Dorado, Arkansas, hosted a “meatless meal” for parishioners following the Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Friday evening, March 5, 2010. A baked potato and salad bar also served as a fund-raiser for the Court. In the photo left to right are Regent Anita Lockwood, Joyce Mullis, Jane Doyle and Financial Secretary Gerry Tomlinson.

North Dakota House Tour Helps Raise Funds

Members of Court St. Elizabeth #170 in Minot, North Dakota, cherish memories of their second annual bake sale and tour of homes during the last Christmas season. Five families opened their homes for public viewing; the homes were beautifully decorated with various Christmas trees, scenes, ornaments and a variety of nativity sets. The tour was followed by a bake sale at St. Leo’s Community Center that included a large assortment of Christmas desserts, cookies, bars and candy. Proceeds supported the court’s local Catholic charities and will help fund the North Dakota State Catholic Daughters convention in 2011.

Members of Court Our Lady of the Redeemer stand together with Father Pilcher during Lenten Holy Hour on Saturday, February 27, 2010.
North Dakota Quilters Say ‘Thank You’ at Baby Shower

Court St. Gerard #2518 in Valley City, North Dakota, held a pro-life baby shower as part of its February 8, 2010 meeting. A special part of the shower was a donation of baby quilts created by St. Catherine Quilters, which sews quilts for those in need within a 70-mile radius of Valley City. Beneficiaries include the Children’s Miracle Network, the Abused Person Outreach and “the homeless under the bridge and the downtrodden.” The quilts were a gesture of thanks for a donation Court St. Gerard gave to the St. Catherine Quilters last year. The quilts had extra special meaning because several members of St. Catherine Quilters also belong to Court St. Gerard.

Texas Taco Dinner Supports Scholarships

Court Guardian Angel #739 in Taylor, Texas, held its annual Taco Dinner on January 30, 2010. In the photo, CDA members, cooks and servers surround jars of hot sauce that added heat, spice and flavor to the tacos. Proceeds from the dinner are used for scholarships awarded to seniors graduating from St. Mary’s Parish.
Nebraska Daughters Spice up Fish Fry

Members of Court Our Lady of Fatima #1549 in North Platte, Nebraska, sold slices of cake each week during Lent at Knights of Columbus Friday evening Fish Fry fund-raisers to support W.R.A.P. (White Ribbons Against Pornography). All the cakes are donated by Catholic Daughters and friends of the parish. Their efforts resulted in approximately $150 at each Fish Fry. Cheryl Stromitis, who submitted this article to Share about the Fish Fry cakes, said, “It’s so easy and something we have a really good time with.”

Montana Court Joins With Knights to March for Life

On January 22, 2010, Court St. Monica #1994 in Baker, Montana, partnered with the Knights of Columbus to co-host a local March for Life. The march was followed by a soup luncheon and speakers. In the photo are, left to right, Mary Thomas, regent of Court St. Katherine #239 in Glendive, Montana; National Director Janet Martineau; Mary Smith, Montana state regent; and Rev. Thomas Tobin of St. John’s Catholic Church in Baker.

New York Helps Babies and Young Mothers

Court Queen of Peace #1534 in Wappingers Falls, New York, held a baby shower at St. Mary’s Our Lady of the Falls School gym/auditorium. Proceeds went to support the Young Mothers Program at The Children’s Home in Poughkeepsie, New York. The Young Mother’s Program was recently licensed by New York State as a residence for pregnant girls and young mothers who are in foster care. Children’s Home Director Walter J. Joseph described the shower as a “resounding success,” as the court provided diapers, toiletries, clothes, bedding, gift cards and cash donations.

New York Court Helps Comfort Troops

As an expression of the Circle of Love/Quality of Life initiative, Court Ave Maria #832 in Kings Park, New York, collects and ships assorted products to U.S. military personnel. “These brave men and women sacrifice their lives for us every day,” said Regent Patricia Zeigler. “We offer them a token of our gratitude and respect by sending them assorted comfort products that may help them through their time away from family and friends.”

Members of Court Queen of Peace share the stage of St. Mary’s gym/auditorium with the many baby gifts they collected to help young mothers.

Left to right are Jean Reimers, Vagene Edgington and Nancy Robinson.

Left to right are Patrice Alexander, Janet Clark, Gloria Legrottaglie, Ellen Mansfield and court Vice Regent Peggy Rissier.
Arizona Welcomes New Court

On Saturday, January 23, 2010, Court Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta #2632 in Marana, Arizona, was instituted during Mass at St. Christopher’s Church. Principal celebrant was Most Rev. Gerald Kicanas, bishop of the Diocese of Tucson, and concelebrated by Arizona State Chaplain Rev. Abran Tadeo, pastor of St. Christopher’s parish. Following Mass the court’s first meeting was conducted by Arizona State Regent Susan Mone, who welcomed 44 charter members. The newly-elected court officers were installed by National Director Duchess Collins. The court had its first monthly meeting three weeks later and hosted a breakfast fund-raiser for the parish at which they netted nearly $700. Three of the court members plan to attend the national convention in July.

Massachusetts Court Supports Troops In Afghanistan

Members of Court St. John Eudes #987 in Hudson, Massachusetts, sent seven Christmas boxes of gifts and useful items to U.S. soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The troops wrote back and said that one of the hardest things for them is being away from home during the holidays, especially when they have a child at home celebrating his or her first Christmas. Members of Court St. John Eudes said the troops “were so very appreciative of the many items that were sent.”

DID YOU KNOW

that the cost for every Share Magazine

that is returned to us due to an incorrect address is $.94 (.50 return postage due plus an additional .44 to find out what the correct address is)? It is imperative that all changes of address are sent to us when they occur. If you are a snowbird, perhaps you could ask your local post office to hold the Share magazine along with all your other periodical mail for your return.

Have You Moved? Is Your Mailing Label Incorrect? If so, please notify your court’s financial secretary and the CDA National Headquarters. Send the mailing label showing your old address along with your new address to: Catholic Daughters of the Americas, 10 West 71st St., New York, N.Y.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City __________ State ___ Zip ________

Attach mailing label here.
Louisiana Court Welcomes New Members

Court Assumption #1672 in Franklin, Louisiana, honored new members with a covered dish social on January 11, 2010. The court was honored to welcome the 10 Catholic Daughters who joined in 2009, including, from left to right, Wonderlon Campbell, Allyn Kerr, Claudia Boudreaux, Dolores Hebert and Gayle Louviere. Not pictured are Peggy Daspit, Darlene Scelfo, Rosemary Thibodeux, Tammy Franks and Julie Franks.

Nebraska Court Honors Members at Anniversary Banquet

Regent Deb Hamling of Court Little Flower #988 in Columbus, Nebraska, presented special awards at the court’s 84th anniversary banquet. Eileen Dowd was honored as a 50-year member, Theresa Jaixen received her 60-year pin and Louise Bridges received a Certificate of Recognition for faithful and exceptional service. The court also recognized Honorary Life Group members Josephine Haney (61 years), Cecelia Beiermann (63 years), Irene Fuchs (64 years) and Theresa Mrzlak (65 years).

Louisiana Charter Member Celebrates 100 Years

Court Massabielle #1134 in Morgan City, Louisiana, honored Mrs. Della Gray who turned 100 on March 17, 2010. Della is the only remaining charter member of Court Massabielle, which was formed in 1929.

New Mexico Court Regent Stirs the Spaghetti Sauce

Mary Alice Winter, regent of Court Our Lady of Guadalupe #2509 in Taos, New Mexico, stirs the spaghetti sauce for the annual luncheon served to the confirmation class. The luncheon included spaghetti, salad and cake with ice cream. Spaghetti is a favorite of the children.
New Jersey Court Receives New Members

Court Our Lady of Mercy #1655 in Sea Isle City, New Jersey, received eight new members on January 9, 2010. From left to right are Peg Newton, Joan Gardella, Geraldine McDonnell, Betty Dougherty, Angela Kelly, Millie Fenimore, Barbara Rice, Barbara Moran and Nancy Portland regent. Court Chaplain Rev. Joseph Perreault and Rev. Thomas Newton, son of new member Peg Newton, are also pictured.

Catholic Daughter’s Nephew Appointed New Director

On January 7, 2010, Rev. Emil S. Payer was appointed director of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for the Diocese of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The appointment was made by The Most Rev. Lawrence E. Brandt, bishop of Greenburg. Father Payer will continue as pastor of Seven Dolors Parish in Yukon, Pennsylvania. Father Payer is nephew of Virginia Reskey of Court Bellevue #655 in Bellevue, Pennsylvania.

Court Celebrates 60th Anniversary and Honoring Member’s 100th Birthday

Court Father Raphael #1542 in Callicoon, New York, celebrated 60 years at which time a happy centennial birthday was extended to member Marion Roche. In the picture published in the local newspaper, Marion is surrounded by Catholic Daughters and family who celebrated her milestone birthday on the lawn in front of what has been Marion’s home since 1945.
Pennsylvania Court Welcomes New Members

Members of Court St. Catherine #1992 in Mount Union, Pennsylvania, were delighted to welcome new members into their court. In the photo of the new members at their reception are front row, left to right, Carmen Revera, Tara Miller, Suzanne Brown, Allison Roddy, Sible Miller and Tina Kassebom. Back row, left to right, are Ceremonial Coordinator Margie Cassatt, Court Chaplain Rev. George Koharchek, Treasurer Andrea Chrisstoff, Financial Secretary Elizabeth Stasenko, Regent Connie Singer, Secretary Mary Anne Kumpf and officiating at the Reception of New Members First Vice State Regent Margaret Novak.

Ohio Court Celebrates Two 90-Year Milestones

In December 2009 Court Conneaut #413 in Conneaut, Ohio, commemorated its 90-year anniversary. As part of the festivities, court members celebrated member Ann Fields’ 90th birthday. Ann, who has been a member of Court Conneaut for 72 years, is seated in the photo, left, wearing her white birthday corsage, sharing the moment with Regent Dorothy Brooks.

Nebraska Catholic Daughter Celebrates Hundredth Birthday

Court Guardian Angel #1384 in West Point, Nebraska, honored the centennial birthday of Elizabeth Prinz by celebrating her life. Elizabeth was born on St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, 1910 and married Arthur Prinz on February 22, 1933. They had two daughters: Delores, who later married, and Norma Jean, who entered the Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity in 1957 and is now Sister Mary Beth.

After her husband died in 1959 Elizabeth moved to West Point, Nebraska, where she was employed at St. Francis Memorial Hospital until she retired at 70. Elizabeth joined Court Guardian Angel #1384 on October 13, 1946, one year after the court was formed. She was an active member and regular volunteer for meetings, activities, fund-raisers and charities. Elizabeth was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, the Christian Mothers, and president of St. Mary’s Guild. As well as being a long-standing Catholic Daughter, Elizabeth is a charter member of St. Francis Hospital Auxiliary, participated in three social card clubs and supported many church and community causes. She regularly attended all church services and funerals and is accomplished at sewing, gardening, baking and especially crocheting.
Pennsylvania Daughter Honored for 64 Years of Service

Court St. Martin #418 in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, honored Margaret Rickert for her many years of faithful service to the court. Margaret joined the court on January 26, 1947 and has been very active and involved in all court activities since. Court St. Martin includes members from four counties within the Scranton Diocese. Theresa Bayly is regent.

Virginia Welcomes New State Chaplain

Virginia state officers welcomed their new state chaplain, Rev. Ramon Baez. Father Baez was born in Puerto Rico and his family moved to Northern Virginia when he was 10. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Father Baez left the military in 1999 to pursue a vocation in the priesthood. He now serves as parochial vicar of Saint Leo the Great parish in Fairfax, Virginia. Father Baez looks forward to meeting many chaplains and Catholic Daughters at the biennial national convention in July.

People
The Beauty of Mary

Compiled and edited by Rosemary Vaccari Mysel; Andrew J. Vaccari; and Peter I. Vaccari
(Pauline Books & Media, 2008, Boston, Massachusetts)

Reviewed by Peggy Eastman

The Mother of Jesus played an essential role in carrying out God’s plan for the salvation of human beings. Without Mary’s acceptance of God’s call at the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), there would have been no Savior of the world, no teachings and parables, no apostles, no crucifixion and resurrection and no worldwide Church. Mary is rightfully venerated as God’s handmaiden, beautifully expressed in the Magnificat — her poetic acceptance of God’s charge.

This compilation of writings about Mary is a special treasure. The book includes the work of Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen and St. John of the Cross, among many others. Pope John Paul II was known to have had a strong appreciation for the role Mary played in God’s design for the world, so his contributions to this book are welcome and noteworthy. In his encyclical letter Redemptoris Mater (Mother of the Redeemer), the late pope wrote of the “fullness” of time when Mary was chosen to bear the son of God: “This ‘fullness’ marks the moment when, with the entrance of the eternal into time, time itself is redeemed, and being filled with the mystery of Christ becomes definitively ‘salvation time’...this ‘fullness’ designates the hidden beginning of the Church’s journey.”

The book is enriched by well-chosen Scripture quotations, reflection questions and some beautiful full-color reproductions of paintings of Mary. These include The Visitation by Raphael (1519).

Mary of Nazareth

Questar Films DVD Collection
Questar, Inc., Chicago, Illinois)

Reviewed by Evelyn Saxton, National Director, Spiritual Enhancement Chair

We are immediately drawn in by the gentle, calming voice and beautiful face of Mary in “Mary of Nazareth,” a feature-length film which leads the viewer through the feelings of joy and sorrow faced by the mother of Jesus throughout His entire life.

Beginning with the dramatic account of the angel Gabriel announcing that Mary was chosen to be the mother of the Savior, the story unfolds through all of the joyful, luminous and sorrowful mysteries, incorporating dialogue taken directly from sacred Scripture.

Throughout the production, Mary is seen as the loving mother of Jesus, but also as His travel companion, humble servant and believer in His message. She is continually by His side as He goes about the work of healing, teaching and ministering to those who seek His extraordinary gifts and news.

Although the actor portraying Jesus lacks a certain warmth associated with a loving Lord, the accompanying musical scores and precise visualizations of the mysteries of the rosary make the movie an enjoyable spiritual experience. The cast includes 110 actors and more than 8500 extras.
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