



CATHOLIC
DAUGHTERS
OF THE
AMERICAS

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.

YEAR AT A GLANCE:

December:

Adopt a Family
Christmas Party

January:

Regular Meeting with Guest Speaker

February:

Education Contest
K of C Pie/Pop Fundraiser

March:

Easter Ham Raffle & Pie Sales

April:

Baby Shower for Pregnancy Options/Pillow Cleaning

May:

May Crowning Program & Pilgrimage to Schoenstatt in Sleepy Eye

June:

Priest Appreciation/Salad Luncheon

July:

No meeting

August:

Pillow Cleaning/Potluck Picnic



GABRIEL

COURT SACRED HEART #1424
WASECA, MINNESOTA



DECEMBER
2022

**Next CDA Meeting & Christmas Party: Tuesday December 13th at Treanor
Campion Dining Hall at Sacred Heart Waseca 6pm Social/Party 7pm Meeting**

SOCKTOBER SOLITUDE!

Warm Feet - Loving Hearts: An Article Written by our Vice Regent Lori Mickelson for our CDA State Newsletter, Photos courtesy of Joann Earle

Court Sacred Heart #1424, Waseca, asked all parishioners to contribute socks for the Annual Socktober Project during the month of October. A clothes basket was kept in the church entry all month long for new sock donations. 619 pairs of socks were collected, and then donated, to the local Neighborhood Service Center. Socks are the most requested item of the homeless. This winter, there will be a lot of warm, happy feet in Waseca County!



The photo to the left is the gurney we used to collect socks at Sacred Heart Catholic church in Waseca. The photo to the bottom left is all the socks piled up after collecting them all month, and the photo on the bottom right, is our CDA member Joann Earle, pictured to the right, giving the donation of 619 socks to the Neighborhood Service Center to help keep the feet of community members warm this winter.



Letter from our Regent.....

Dear Sisters in Christ:

I want to thank Anne Clayton for helping to lead the Memorial Service for our deceased members at the November meeting. As always it was a moving ceremony, and it is always good to remember the women who have come before us and made Court Sacred Heart what it is today.

By the time you get this newsletter it either is or will soon be Advent, with Christmas following right after that. This is a busy time of the year for everyone. We are busy with shopping, baking, decorating, entertaining, and on and on. It seems like there just aren't enough hours in the day to get everything done. But we need to remember why we are celebrating the seasons of Advent and Christmas. We first celebrate Advent to prepare ourselves, so we are ready and worthy to welcome Jesus on Christmas day. We need to take time each day to make our hearts ready to welcome Jesus. I have included a short article in this newsletter outlining a few ways to do this. But there are many other ways. I pray that you find something to help make your hearts ready for Jesus, and that your Advent and Christmas seasons are very blessed, helping you to feel the love of Jesus in your everyday life.

Court Sacred Heart will be having a Christmas party on December 13th, starting with a potluck. Everyone is welcome. Please call me if you need a ride. We don't want anyone to stay home just because you don't have a ride. There will also be a Christmas Angel craft for those of you who want to participate in that. For those who don't care to do the craft, there will be games available, or you can just enjoy visiting with your CDA sisters. We will need an RSVP for the Christmas craft by November 28th .

Wishing you a holy and joy filled Christmas,
In Unity and Charity,
Pat Foley, Regent
Court Sacred Heart 1424

CDA Deceased Member Service

Written by: Linda Groh, Photo Courtesy of Patty Masberg

At our November Meeting we had a memorial service for our deceased members. Our regent, Pat Foley, named and then lit candles in member of each newly deceased CDA member. Ann Clayton lead us in songs and prayers for remembering our deceased. It was a beautiful service.



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LOCAL, STATE, & NATIONAL CDA NEWS

When needing information about Catholic Daughters in general, you can go to the National CDA Website at <http://www.catholicdaughters.org>. Here you will find a copy of the Tools of the Trade, the CDA Store, bios of the National Board, archives of the Share Magazine, and many other topics.

If you want information concerning Minnesota State CDA go to <http://www.mncda.com>. Here you will find bios of the state board, along with information about upcoming Minnesota CDA activities, prayers, archived newsletters and articles about what the CDA courts across Minnesota are doing, along with many other topics.

It is fun to just go to either the National or State CDA site and wander about, learning a little more about this awesome organization that we belong to.

A LETTER FROM OUR NATIONAL CHAPLAIN

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet

My dear sisters in Christ,

In God's wondrous design, we can see and experience creation moving through seasons, understanding that "There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens" (Ref., Ecclesiastes 3:1-4). In other words, all human things have their season, and the things we go through in life are not without purpose. Although we cannot see it, everything has a cause, a reason for being, which only God knows. We also understand that situations do not last forever, and the seasons are permitted by a loving God, in His divine providence, to serve a great purpose: our flourishing. Though life does not always make sense, and we may feel insignificant at times, we find comfort and hope in God, who is the Author of our time and the seasons of our lives, inviting us to penetrate these mysteries.

With an unshakeable faith, we march forward welcoming the new seasons, changes, and circumstances while learning to depend on God, these seasons, and expecting things because of them – trusting that God makes things beautiful in due season and causes our lives to be abundant in meaning.

As we welcome our new National Board, as well as State and Regional Court leaders, a new season is dawning – a time of change, growth, and renewal. For these leaders, it is a time of integrating natural and spiritual qualities to be utilized for serving and assisting God's people – the good of the Order – to accomplish His purposes (Ref., Romans 8:28, Matthew 20:20-28). They recognize that these natural qualities – i.e., skills, talents, etc. – are not self-created, but God-given and only reach their highest effectiveness when, with hearts filled with gratitude and humility, they are employed in the service of God and for His glory (Ref., 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11-12). But the task of serving God and sharing one's natural qualities are not only for the Order's leaders, but it also belongs to each member, who has personally been called by name, and through the Holy Spirit are called to live out CDA's mission intentionally, giving witness to its motto, and fulfilling its two-fold purpose of "spirituality and service" – the heart and soul foundation of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. As this new season begins, let us make the Psalmist's prayer our very own: "May the favor of the Lord our God be ours. Prosper the work of our hands! Prosper the work of our hands!" (Psalm 90:17)

Father Shenan J. Bouquet

Advent Prayers

Lord, send down your Spirit to guide me during Advent this year. May the Holy Spirit help me journey closer to you and lift me up when I feel down and lead me when I feel lost. I may stumble at times, but I know my ultimate journey is to draw closer to You and to build Your Kingdom here on earth, a Kingdom that Jesus' birth, life, and death helped secure for all men. Amen.

I pray for focus today, dear God, because during Advent, my mind and attention tend to wander. There are so many distractions, many of them well-meaning. But nothing gives my heart rest like resting in you. I pray that I keep you as the focus of my day today, because I know the peace that only You can offer. Amen



CDA Minutes NOVEMBER 8, 2022

The regular meeting of Court Sacred Heart #1424 was called to order by Regent Pat Foley on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 7:19p.m. in the Parish Center Emmaus Room.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Opening prayers led by Deb Wobschall

A Memorial Service for Deceased Members of Court Sacred Heart was led by Anne Clayton. CDA members who have passed away during the past year, and were specially remembered at this service were Bonnie Zimmerman, Elizabeth McIntire, Jean Byron, Ardith Kohnert, Rosemary Britton and Loretta Schwartz. May they rest in peace and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Silent roll call of officers was taken. There were 4 officers present and there was a quorum present.

A motion was made by Sue Harguth to approve the October minutes as printed in the newsletter. The motion was seconded and approved.

Correspondence was passed among members and consisted of a card from Mary Kolhaus.

The treasurer's report was given by Carmen Battenfeld . We have a balance of \$10,144.15 in available funds.

No bills were presented by the financial secretary, Patty Masberg.

Reports of Chairmen:

That's My Pan fundraiser - Sue Harguth reported \$246 in sales to date. Sales ended at the regular November meeting.

Socktober - JoAnn Earle reported 619 pairs of socks were collected and donated to the Neighborhood Service Center in Waseca. A picture and thank you will be posted on the Church website and Facebook page.

Gummi Bears for Habitat for Humanity - Bea O'Brien reported \$666.66 was earned for Habitat for Humanity. Funds will be sent to the state court for the \$10,000 Habitat for Humanity grant.

Election Day Prayer Service - Deb Wobschall reported there was a small number in attendance, but it went well. There was discussion around having a prayer service for our country more often and to invite the Knights of Columbus and Religious Ed classes.

Unfinished Business: NONE

Christmas Party: Craft and Potluck - Our CDA party will be held on December 13th. All CDA members and guests are welcome. Lori Mickelson organized an angel craft at a cost of \$25 for each individual participating. RSVP for the craft by November 28. We will start at 6:00 pm with the potluck. Bring any dish, snack, dessert to share. Bring your own beverage. Plates and utensils will be provided. The craft will follow. Stay for fellowship and games.

Business from the floor:

Hot Water Heaters for the Church - Bea O'Brien brought up the message in the Church bulletin about the need of 2 hot water heaters. After much discussion a motion was made by Sue Harguth for our CDA to donate \$1000 to the Church to help cover the cost of the hot water heaters. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous in favor of the \$1000 donation.

First Aid Kits - It was brought to our attention that the Church is in need of a first aid kit. Shirley Skorzewski will look into this for more specific information and bring it back to the court to consider purchasing first aid kits or items to make the kits. **(Meeting Minutes Continued on Next Page)**

ANY WOMAN 18 YEARS OR OLDER, WHO IS CATHOLIC, AND DESIRES TO BE A MEMBER, MAY JOIN CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS.

(CDA Meeting Minutes from November 8, 2022 Continued)

Financial Secretary's Report:

Patty Masberg - No report needed.

Announcements:

Thank you to Lori Mickelson and Patty Masberg for getting a cord/computer for Linda Groh to do the newsletter.

Deb Wobschall talked with Fr. The and shared that during Advent he will hold Lectio Divina study sessions on the coming Sunday Gospels. It is being planned for Tuesdays from 6:30-7:30pm. Watch the church bulletin for further details.

Shirley Skorczewski shared that the Rosary making group will be making Advent prayer bracelets.

Patty Masberg encouraged anyone with suggestions for pro life messages for the church sign to contact her or Lori Mickelson.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec 13, 2022 with a 6:00pm start for the Christmas potluck.

Ending prayer led by Deb Wobschall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m

THE ADVENT WREATH

The use of the advent wreath and candles during Advent is a Catholic Tradition that was originally adopted by Christians in the Middle Ages as part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas. The wreath, made from evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life we find in Jesus. The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple, because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first purple candle is lit on the First Sunday of Advent. This candle symbolizes HOPE. It has sometimes been called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets who foretold the birth of Christ. The second purple candle is lit on the Second Sunday of Advent. This candle represents FAITH and has been called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. The third candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete Sunday. Its color is pink and symbolizes JOY. It is also known as the "Shepard's Candle". It is to remind us that we have reached the midpoint of Advent and will soon be celebrating the birth of our King. On the fourth week, the last purple candle is lit to mark the final week of penance and preparation. This candle is called the "Angels Candle". It reminds us of the message of the angels; "Peace on Earth and Good Will to Men". A white candle is often placed in the center and is lit on Christmas Eve. This is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white symbolizes purity because Jesus is our sinless, pure Savior.

On each Sunday, in addition to the candle from that week, the candle(s) from the previous week are lit. There are prayers to be said at the time of the candle lighting, with the family surrounding the Advent Wreath. There are many sources to find those prayers. Look for Prayers for the Advent Wreath on "Focus", The Hallow App, Google and in many books. The tradition of the Advent Wreath will help center the family's focus on the meaning of Advent and Christmas.



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Ten Simple Ways to Prepare for Christmas

The primary focus of Catholics in preparing for Christmas should not be in baking, gifts, and parties. Instead, the focus should be on Baby Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, in a stable in Bethlehem. We each need to find the best way to prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ Child. Here are a few suggestions of ways that we can prepare ourselves during Advent.

(Adapted from "10 Simple Ways to Prepare for Christmas this Week" by Fr. Ed Broom, OMV.)

1. Clean the stable of your heart. A good sacramental confession will sweep out the dirt and make us clean and ready to receive the Christ Child.
2. Seek Silence. It is during moments of silence that God's Holy Spirit can speak to us, give us insight into our lives and send heavenly inspiration.
3. Make time for more frequent prayer. Set aside time to talk to the Lord, to Mary and Joseph, asking for their help and guidance.
4. A Christmas Carol. A good movie or book can be exceeding fruitful. One of the greatest is "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. This story really shows the true meaning of changing our hearts and giving to others in Christ's love.
5. Find joy in giving more than in receiving. Seek out ways to give to others, especially those in most need.
6. Live out the Mass in your life. Try to attend Mass as often as possible and let Jesus be born in your heart in the reception of the Holy Eucharist.
7. Visit the poor, elderly, sick and abandoned. Seek out helping those in our society who are lonely or suffer the most.
8. Reconcile if you are angry or bitter towards someone. Now is the time to reconcile. Be humble. Take the initiative and reconcile. Even though difficult, it will be very pleasing to God and fill your heart with a deep peace.
9. Kind words and words of cheer. A compliment, a thank you, a word or two of encouragement - all of them can change a sad heart into a heart of joy!
10. Mother Mary and Christmas. Stay close to Mary. Pray the Rosary. Accompany Mary in her journey to Bethlehem in the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Place Mary in Advent and Christmas, and Jesus will be born into your heart.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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