

Unity & Charity

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The Enlightener

Court Mary, Mother of the Redeemer
#2680 Houston, Texas

November 2015



CDA Fund Raiser - Wreaths Across America

For our first fundraiser this year, we have partnered with Wreaths Across America to sponsor wreath placements on each grave of a veteran buried at Houston National Cemetery. This is a wonderful way to honor our veterans while helping our organization. The Court receives \$5.00 with every \$15.00 wreath sponsored. **Your challenge, if you choose to accept it, is to reach a goal of 5 sponsorships. If every one of us could do that, we would be over \$2,500.00 in funds raised for the Court.** If you already received 5 sponsorships, raise your goal to 10! More info, forms for cash or check sponsorships can be found on ctrcc.com/cda

Please use the following website that credits our Court for every wreath sponsored through us - <http://give.wreathscrossamerica.org/goto/TX0241P> . To sponsor or make a donation, select the red box with text "Donate to TX0241P- Catholic Daughters of the Americas #2680".

Deadline for sponsorship is November 30.

Wreath placement day is Saturday, December 12; Ceremony start time – 11am.

The CDA Chili Queens

On Saturday, November 7 our team, **CDA Chili Queens** participated in the first annual chili cook-off to support the CtR Catholic School. The CDA Chili Queens were led by Carol Hall and Peggy Bell. The Cook Captain, Erica Ibarra, provided the Hunka Hunka Burnin' Love chili recipe. Spicy! Thank you for everyone's support. **What a great time at the Cook Off!** See photos on page 5!

Refreshment Committee Wants You!

If you would like to sign up to bring refreshments for a meeting, please contact Carolyn Maniscalco at carolynman@sbcglobal.net or 281-373-0138 - home, 713-858-6966 - cell. We appreciate you!!

Mass Cards

Mass cards are available for purchase before our regular monthly meetings for \$2.50. If you are unable to attend a meeting and require a Mass card, please contact Melissa Swick @ 281-686-1133, kittyloverof3@hotmail.com or Mary Raymond - raymond.mary@gmail.com . An enrolled person will be remembered for the period of one year in the Holy Mass offered the first Friday of each month by State Chaplain, Reverend Donald Ruppert of East Bernard. Mass cards can be sent as sympathy, get well, birthday, anniversary, new baby, graduation, confirmation, etc. All proceeds go to benefit the State Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund was established in 1980 as a tribute to the deceased Past State Regents. Funds are used to aid in the higher education of members and family members of Texas Catholic Daughters.

A Message from our Regent

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Fall is upon us! The seasons are changing, as are we! Summer always seems to go by, too fast though we were all engaged with Court work! We celebrated our First Anniversary as a Court, early August, starting with Mass, followed by celebratory dinner with our newest parochial vicar, Fr. Sebastine Okoye, providing a tremendous blessing over the Court as well as the food.

September resulted in the passing of a budget for the 2015-2016 year, updates to the Standing Rules, the addition of three new service projects and three separate fund raising activities for the year! Thanks to all of our committee members for their dedication to the success of the Court and the good works that we do. We also hosted a successful Recruitment Weekend and Open House event in September. The Open House serves as an opportunity for learning more about CDA for those interested in joining and for our members. We look forward to installing at least 6 new members at the October meeting, possibly more.

Sunday, October 18 was CDA Sunday! The National CDA Board has chosen "Whatever you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me," (Matthew, 25:40) as their theme. In keeping with the National theme, our service projects and fundraisers reflect the same.

Our first fundraiser this year has a time limit; it ends November 30, 2015. We have partnered with Wreaths Across America (WAA), a 501(3)c organization, for the sponsorship of wreaths at Houston National Cemetery (HNC). Sponsorship is to ensure that there is a wreath for placement on each grave of a veteran buried at HNC. The HNC wreath placement day this year is Saturday, December 12, ceremony start at 11am. The mission of WAA is **Remember. Honor. Teach.** We have a tailored website that credits our Court for every wreath sponsored through our link - <http://give.wreathscrossamerica.org/goto/TX0241P> . More information on WAA can be found as well as making wreath donations via credit card. The donations types are a single wreath, multiple wreaths, In Honor, In Memory, and Patriot Partners (for placement at HNC & a cemetery located elsewhere). To sponsor or make a donation, select the red box with text "Donate to TX0241P- Catholic Daughters of the Americas #2680". Corporate sponsorships are also welcome! Thank you for your sponsorship and support of this patriot event.

The additional fundraisers the Court approved are participating in the Kroger Card program that benefits non-profit organizations; our Court NPO identification number is **76815**. To participate, you would link your Kroger Card with the Court's NPO number, show your card at checkout or provide your phone number, and once a quarter, Kroger forwards funds to the Court, based on a percentage of the purchase volume for every associated card. The third fundraiser is a designated Fundraising Night at Panera – we hope to do this at least twice a year. All of our fundraisers are fairly low pressure. People can give from their heart, resulting in small donations that are repeatable.

We continue our support of the Christ the Redeemer School with the donation of new and gently used books, gathering Box Tops for Education, completion of the Mary Statue donation with a custom plaque, and the Education Contest. We entered a team into the School's Chili Cook-Off fundraiser. We'll have a few other fun projects with the School before the end of the school year!

Our newest service project additions are visiting Parson's House, providing meals for the Friends In Need ministry, and supervising/chaperoning Youth Group members for specific leadership projects. We'll most likely have a few more service projects to add before the end of the year! The great recommendations from our members result in high participation in our events.

We are rapidly moving to the end of the Liturgical Season and into the holiday season –Christ the King, Advent, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Christmas, and Epiphany. We have ongoing Service Projects and Ways & Means which means there are many ways to participate in addition to Circle of Love Programs.

We all have changes in our lives, and have had some turnover in Committee Chairs. Thank you to those who have served, those who continue to serve, and those who are willing to say, "Yes." when asked to serve. I am very blessed to be surrounded by great women who care, and are willing to take the lead. Thank you, all, for all that you do!!

Pat Gutierrez, Regent

Important Dates

11/7 - CtR Catholic School Chili Cook-Off
11/18 - CDA Meeting
11/20 - Wreaths Across America - Check Deadline
11/30 - Wreaths Across America - Online Deadline
12/12 - Wreaths Across America - Wreath Placements
12/13 - CDA Christmas Party
1/16 - 1/17 - Recruitment Weekend
1/20 - CDA Meeting
1/27 - Open House
2/17 - CDA Meeting
2/20 - Education/Scholarship App Reading

Committee Chairs

Quality of Life: Aubrey Surovik

- Mass Fund: Melissa Swick/Mary Raymond
- Respect Life: Carol Hall
- Sunshine: Martha Duffy
- Refreshments: Carolyn Maniscalco
- Fellowship: Michelle Garcia and Marian Palazzolo
- Ride Coordinators:
- Youth: Stacey Garcia

Legislation: Vacant

Education/Scholarship Program:

Spiritual Enhancement: Connie Trout

Leadership: Veronica Noel

- Membership: Karen Fishbeck and Michelle Garcia
- Communication: Cindy Wargo
- Standing Rules: Veronica Noel

Family: Mary Jo Surbrook

- Marian Palazzolo, Rosemary Mahony, Erica Ibarra, Michalle Prieto, Dorata Jankovsky, Cindy Zientek

Budget Committee: Carol Hall and Mary Raymond

Ways & Means: Trudy (Hutchinson) Lurz

Coming in our next newsletter - Networking Opportunities for Members – Are you looking for a new job? Have a new business or an established business? Stressed that the holidays are approaching too quickly?

Donations for Cypress Assistance Ministries - CAM

Bring CAM items to our Christmas Party, Dec 13. CAM is asking for our help for teens this Christmas. Tara at CAM has identified that there is a need for teenaged items. Not sure what to get? Here are some ideas:

Girls:

- Jewelry / earrings
- Body products (i.e. lotions, bath gels & washes, perfume, soaps, etc) Items from places like Bath & Body Works
- Appropriate teen-style clothing
- Gift cards

Boys:

- Gift cards from places like Game Stop, etc
- Any kind of sports items
- College team sports clothing
- Rockets, Texan clothing, etc

Or anything else a teen would like to receive!

Have questions? Contact Mary Jo Surbrook - alexandra-austin@sbcglobal.net

Kroger Card – 76815

Link our Court to your Kroger Card and help raise money while you shop. Our Non Profit Organization number is **76815**. Instructions are easy to follow on the Kroger site - <http://www.kroger.com/> The Court will receive donations quarterly. For more information, check your email or contact Trudy Lurz at Trudy1026@comcast.net.

Book Donations Needed – CtR School

We continue to gather Box Tops for Education points and books (new and gently used) for grades PK-6th. Of specific interest are 3rd and 4th grade level books of a series or books in general. The School has many eager readers, however the selection is limited. The school is also in need of more books on sharks, dinosaurs, sports, snakes, the sciences, fiction, and non-fiction.

For more information, contact Marian Palazzolo at mp_soccermom@yahoo.com and remember to bring a book, as well as your BoxTops for Education to our next monthly Court Meeting.

Quality of Life

<http://www.simplyaubrey.com/2015/02/13/simple-meals/>

What kind of wellness do you want???



Welcome

Our Newest Members

Bernadine Armstrong, Lynda Bryan, Linda Markey, Mary Ann Schumann, Peggy St. John, Mary Jane Truman, and Malisa Vincenti.



October

- 3 - Peggy & Michael Bell
- 4 - Linda & Jack Parker
- 13 - Melissa & Paul Wearden
- 13 - Carol & Wayne Longer
- 20 - Michelle & John Zullinger
- 22 - Alma & John Carnicle
- 23 - Mayte & Javier Weitzman
- 27 - Linda & Gil Leonard

November

- 12 - Christina & Robert Ridley
- 29 - Cynthia & Steve White

December

- 1 - Joan & Johnny Gondesens
- 1 - Debbie & Dick Williams
- 14 - Melanie & Chris Matthieu
- 28 - Dolores & Darrel Rock
- 28 - Carolyn & George Brown



October

- 1 - Peggy Bell
- 1 - Carrie Conner
- 4 - Debbie Williams
- 8 - Linda Markey
- 8 - Mary Jane Trueman
- 13 - Florence Riley
- 13 - Elizabeth Thompson
- 17 - Dorota Jankovsky
- 21 - Cristina Caruso
- 21 - Susie Muck
- 26 - Trudy Lurz
- 28 - Caroline Champness
- 28 - Veronica Noel
- 29 - Carolyn Wells
- 30 - Patty Kierce

November

- 4 - Sylvia Haynes
- 6 - Lidia Ruiz
- 7 - Stephanie Meynard
- 7 - Mary Ann Schumann
- 12 - Michelle Zulliger
- 18 - Roseanna Daly
- 27 - Rosemary Mahony

December

- 1 - Melissa Miller
- 9 - Carolyn Brown
- 12 - Sarah Walker
- 18 - Michelle Garcia

Did we miss your birthday or anniversary? Please contact Elizabeth Thompson - ethompson1106@hotmail.com to be sure we have your most up to date information on our roster!

Networking opportunity - Congratulations to Peggy St. John, new to Texas, in her new role – Avon Consultant – www.yourAVON.com/peggstjohn

Good of the Order

If you have a prayer request or a request for a general intercession, enter the information in the Good of the Order book, which is available at all monthly meetings. You may also email Elizabeth Thompson at ethompson1106@hotmail.com with your request.

All Law Enforcement Officers

Joseph Barron
Kayla Becken
Jason and Kayla Berken and baby
Elaine and Mike Carmichael
Gary Cornell
Debbie Duffy
Pat Durrett
Ashley Garcia
Channing Garrett
Joe Girard
Maurine Hall
Mark Hammond
Thelma Harris
Edna Herring
Warren Hill
James Hoepfl
Channing Kitzmann
Linda Lafley
William and Mary Lamar
Norma Langford
Joe Lurz
Holly Martino

Rick Matt
Carolyn McTiglet
Lorin Meynard
Thelma Moore
Griselda Moreno
Return to Faith - Older Family
Bonnie and Ann Patin
Mike Paulk
Mike Paulk
Alice Pena and family
Diana Perham
Angela Perkins
Polichino Family
Darlene Riley
Nicole Roberts
Patricia Scamardo
Schumann Family
Leone Barkin Smailhall
Bob Sommers
Barbara Swick
Teri Toman
Tony for good health
Mary Jane Trueman

All those suffering with substance abuse, may they be touched by God's healing hands.

Psalms 28:7 The LORD is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusts. I am helped, so my heart rejoices; with my song I praise him.



Family Committee Update

Thanks to the Family Committee and their efforts to identify additional court service projects that were presented at the September meeting and approved by the membership. The three projects are

1. Preparation of bereavement meals that assists the Friends in Need ministry (bring frozen meals to the member meeting, goal 10 per meeting.)
2. Assisting with the Youth Group for specific adult leadership, and
3. Visiting Parsons House, a senior assisted living facility, located near Louetta and Malcolmson/Eldridge.

Please contact Marian Palazzolo at email: mp_soccermom@sbcglobal.net or home phone: 281-370-3490, for more information or to volunteer.

Chili Queens in Action



Habitat for Humanity Update

from Terrie Vacek
Texas State Public Relations and Website Chairman

With great excitement that I share the report on the Habitat for Humanity build. Construction was done by members of the Catholic Daughters in just one day!"

"Your continued support of CDA in your diocese is greatly appreciated. The *"Catholic Daughters of the Americas® strive to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all."*

Our motto took action this past weekend. Throughout the diocese, Catholic Daughters are working in big and small ways to positively make a difference in the lives of others, local parishes, and the community.

Ahhh Refreshments....A Big Thank You!

Thank You! to Carolyn Maniscalco and the Refreshments Committee for organizing refreshments.

Open House Contributors:

Melissa Wearden, Yvonne Rinaldi, Mary Jo Surbrook, Fredna Kilcommins, Pat Gutierrez, Carol Hall and all other members that brought snacks but did not sign up.

September Meeting Contributors: Yvonne Turnbow, Fredna Kilcommins, Veronica Noel and Elizabeth Thompson.

October Meeting Contributors: Marian Palazzolo, Patty Kierce, Lela Polichino and Yvonne Rinaldi

November Meeting Contributors: Susie Muck, Melissa Miller, Sandra Peterson, and Patricia Kishel

If you would like to sign up to bring refreshments for a meeting, please contact Carolyn Maniscalco at carolynman@sbcglobal.net or 281-373-0138 - home, 713-858-6966 - cell.



Spot Light Members

Christine Maniscalco

- Youth and scholarship committees
- Kids being kids always makes her laugh.
- The furthest she has traveled is to Australia.
- She is thankful for her nephew and niece.
- Her least favorite household chore is all of them!

Jeanne Gause

- Spiritual and means committees
- Others laughing makes her laugh
- The furthest she has traveled is Yugoslavia (when it existed)
- She is thankful for her husband, health, and kids.
- Her "go to " Bible verse is:
My heart is restless until it rest in you
- St. Augustine

Have you completed your Member Spotlight information? Contact Membership Co-Chair - Michelle Garcia - ren3769@sbcglobal.net to obtain your form!

CDA Shirts & Other Items

Want to show your CDA pride? CDA apparel and other items can be viewed at The Catholic Daughter Store on the CDA national website - (<http://www.catholicdaughters.org/store/agora.cgi>).

There are a variety of items to choose from including t-shirts, jackets, hoodies, and jewelry.

CDA clothing items can also be found at <http://shop.spreadthewordproducts.com> All items must be ordered through the Court, not online; order forms are available at <http://ctrcc.com/cda> and at the CDA monthly meeting. Contact Elizabeth Thompson for more information.