

Unity and Charity

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The Enlightener

Court Mary, Mother of the Redeemer #2680

Houston, Texas

June 2015



CDA Open House – Information for All

The Court held a successful Open House on Weds, May 27th in the Parish Hall. Potential members and current members attended the well received opportunity to learn more about Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization, the Court Chairmen, and activities in which we are engaged. Many thanks to Membership Co-Chairs – Itze Dixon and Carol Longer for making the presentation a success. Next Open House – September 2015

Dads 'n Dogs – Father's Day Weekend

Contact Fredna Kilcommins or Yvonne Rinaldi to volunteer.



Recording Secretary – Vacant Position

The position of Recording Secretary is vacant. All members in good standing are eligible to participate in the Nomination and Election process, during the June 17th meeting. Please, prayerfully discern, if filling the role of Recording Secretary is in your calling to serve and support our Court. You need not be in attendance to be nominated though prior acceptance of the intended nomination is required. Please refer to the Member email dated May 29th or contact the Court Regent for more information.

Membership Renewal Due

Our fiscal year is June 1 to May 31, which means that the 2015-2016 dues are due; Amount - \$25. Please obtain a payment envelope, complete and return with your payment to our Financial Secretary, Elizabeth Thompson. Please make your check payable to **CDA #2680**.

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 or email: kittyloverof3@hotmail.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,

Happy Summer! Amazing that we have finished our first year, 2014-2015, and are starting our second year, 2015-2016. I count my blessings and thank you all, the wonderful women of Christ the Redeemer who are members of our Catholic Daughters Court. We continue to grow as Catholic Women, and our involvement in the community. You have been flexible in your generosity of time, talent and treasure.

Our Membership Committee – Itze Dixon, Carol Longer, and Veronica Noel, held a very successful and well received Recruitment Weekend and Open House last month, welcoming the women of CtR to learn more about CDA and invite all to join our Court. The Open House session was also a vehicle to educate our members about CDA as well as those who were interested in joining! Overall, both events were very effective in accomplishing both goals – inform and ask women of the parish to join CDA. We have three Recruitment Weekends & Open Houses scheduled for 2015-2016, one each in September, January, and May. Thank you to all who participated as hostesses and ambassadors.

Our involvement in the CtR community has been most effective with the inaugural year of the CtR School, grades pre-k through 4th grade. We have collected Boxtops for Education points, and new & gently used books donated to the school library. Our Books Program Coordinator, Marian Palazzolo, places a label inside the front cover of each book, indicating that the book has been “Donated by Court Mary, Mother of the Redeemer #2680.” A great partnership between our Youth and Projects Committees resulted in the Court’s donation, dedication and blessing of a beautiful Mary Statue to the Ctr School on May 8th. I had the awesome opportunity to be a presenter at the CtR School Awards Ceremony, June 8th. Our Education Contest winner, Taylor Garcia was presented with a Certificate of Participation and a check for \$25; her parents will convert the check to a US Savings Bond for her. We look forward to continued involvement with the CtR School. You can read more about it in this newsletter!

We have had Committee Chairmen training sessions that have proven to be fruitful. The Committee Chairs are the backbone of the organization. Everyone has ideas for projects, service, fellowship, membership, and spirituality activities, and we are ready to do more than we have in the past year. Give your ideas to the respective chairman for consideration. Remember to complete your “Fellowship Activity Survey” and “Meeting the Members” forms and return to Juli Keller; we are looking for Fellowship activities that allow us more opportunities to interact outside of the Monthly meeting. Juli is always looking for members to join the committee or who are willing to coordinate an event.

We have kicked off our Armed Service Members Outreach program for our parishioners who are deployed away from home for an extended length of time. The member’s name, mailing address, and birth month are required.

We are continuing our internal fundraiser, a Bakeless Bake Sale, sponsored by our Ways & Means Committee through the end of June 2015. As of May 31, we have raised over \$1,300.00. If you would like to make a donation, you may pick up an envelope and donation card from the CDA basket located at the parish office and return both with your donation, bring your donation to the meeting, or leave with our Financial Secretary, Elizabeth Thompson. The allocation of the funds raised was designated as 70% - seed money for future fundraisers, 20% - operations, and 10% - towards supporting charity. Thank you for your continued generosity.

We are sponsoring a Dads ‘n Dogs Father’s Day weekend following the Saturday, 5pm, and Sunday morning Masses, in the Parish Hall. Your help and assistance is needed for this fun activity! Co-Chairs are Fredna Kilcommins and Yvonne Rinaldi.

We won’t hold meetings in July or August though we will have our First Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, August 8 starting with the 5pm Mass, and a catered dinner to follow, in the Parish Hall. Chairmen for the event are Martha Stevens, Elizabeth Thompson, and Carolyn & Courtney Wells. They will be in touch with more information and how you can assist.

We have also been advised that our regular meeting space will change from the Parish Hall to the Community Center, beginning with the September meeting.

We have many more good works to do. Thank you all, for all that you do!

Patricia Gutierrez
Regent

49th Biennial Texas State Convention Report

Dear Sisters,

I had the privilege to attend the 49th Biennial Texas State Convention as an elected delegate. The convention was very informative, and incredibly enriching. The keynote speaker, Fr. James Sichko, really spoke to my heart and would have been worth attending, even if the rest of the convention wasn't amazing (which it was!!).

The main purpose of the convention is the business meetings in which reports are made from all of the State Court Circle of Love committees. The power of all the Catholic Daughters across our great state is overwhelming. We were able to see first-hand the difference courts make in their communities from the Habitat build, to the service projects undertaken by JCDA. There was an open sharing of ideas on how to enrich our Court members' experience, and how to shape and improve court activities, and combat declining membership. Oh, and we received one of the many awards that were presented.

We decided to "divide and conquer" the workshops, and I attended the Circle of Love. Despite having been in CDA for four years, and even being chairman of the Circle of Love Committee at my former court, I really had a very narrow understanding of what Circle of Love is, and how it's supposed to function. It was formed in 1968, and has changed and grown as necessary to support individual courts. It was developed by National CDA to assist courts in living out our mission of Unity and Charity. It gives us focus and direction, while emphasizing that each "spoke" is equally important.

The goal of Circle of Love is to utilize each court member's unique talents and passions to make a difference. Spiritual Enhancement is CDA's biggest mission. Ideas for the court include changing the format and structure of the opening prayer regularly to engage everyone. We should provide support to our parish's religious ministries in the form of receptions or gifts for RCIA and those receiving the Sacraments. We could collect extra rosaries to donate to Family Rosary Crusade, and provide our Court Chaplain with a CDA pin, stole, and a subscription to SHARE magazine. For Quality of Life we can participate in the WRAP campaign in October, and Turn Off TV day in February. We can encourage recycling and the use of reusable bags, which could also be a fundraiser. We can bring in speakers on Health and Wellness topics for education and motivation. Participating in Read Across America would satisfy our Youth and Education commitment, while benefiting our community. There is a whole list of charities endorsed by National CDA that would benefit from our involvement. In a nutshell, "Involvement", was the biggest take-away from this workshop. What are we doing, or going to do, to serve our community.

There was also fun and fellowship galore! With two banquets, shopping, and Mass offered every day, I came back feeling refreshed and ready to make a difference. Oh, and I'm already throwing my name in the hat for the 2017 convention in Corpus Christi, you should too!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Juli Keller

CTR School - Mary Statue Dedication & Education Award Presentation

Court Mary, Mother of the Redeemer #2680 donated a beautiful Mary Statue to the Christ the Redeemer Catholic School and Genesis Early Childhood Program playground. Deacon Jack Alexander performed the dedication and blessing of the Mary statue on May 8, 2015. Mary is near the back of the playground where she is visible to all.

Many of the children hold Mary's hands, talk to her, and hug her. The snake at her feet has also presented a learning opportunity.



From L-to-R – Mary Jane Albert (District Deputy), Connie Troutt, Caroline Linseisen, Stacey Garcia, Martha Stevens, Betty Sierra (Principal, CtR School), Mary Davis (Director, Genesis) Patricia Gutierrez, Dcn Jack Alexander, Carol Hall

Congratulations to Taylor Garcia, our 2015 Education Contest Winner, Art category. At the inaugural CtR School Awards Assembly, Regent, Patricia Gutierrez presented Taylor with a Certificate of Accomplishment and a \$25 check that will be converted to a savings bond by her parents. Great job, Taylor!



Armed Services - CtR Member Outreach



Court Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Spirituality Committee has begun a military outreach program for our active duty armed service personnel who are also members of the Christ the Redeemer family. With information provided by family or friends, a prayerful notecard will be sent during or near, the member's birth month.

Requirements for participation in the program -

- 1) The individual should be a registered member of CtR or child of a CtR member
- 2) Currently serving on active duty, posted overseas or domestically

To add a person to the send list, email yvonne.rinaldi@yahoo.com and include the following:

- 1) Your name and contact information.
- 2) Service member's name, mailing address and birthday month.



June 1st – MaryAnne & Bernard Szymanski
 June 2nd – Michelle & Rene Garcia
 June 6th – Pat & Virgil Cargle
 June 8th – Cynthia & Greg Leins
 June 13th – Cristina & Marcus Caruso
 June 14th – Elizabeth & Richard Thompson
 June 15th – Connie & Alain Troutt
 June 20th – Dorota & Karel Jankovsky
 June 20th – Michalle & David Prieto
 June 26th – Susan & Brian Caravantes
 June 30th – Vanessa & Ralph Burzynski



Important Dates

- June 7th - Priest Appreciation Day
- June 17th - Monthly Member Meeting
- June 20/21 - Father's Day Dads 'n Dogs Weekend
- July 4th - Independence Day
- August 5th - Officer Meeting
- August 8th - Court Anniversary Celebration Mass & Dinner
- August 9th - Court Anniversary
- August 11th - Budget Committee Meeting
- August 18th - Monthly Member Meeting
- September 2nd - Officer Meeting
- September 16th - Monthly Member Meeting
- September 19/20 - Recruitment Weekend
- September 23rd - Open House

- June 12th - Trudy Herbert
- June 16th - Yvonne Rinaldi
- June 18th - Kellye Lucas, Connie Troutt
- June 22nd - Mary Rinaldi
- June 23rd - Mayra Cruz-Williams
- June 25th - Colleen Stelmaszek

Committee Chairs

- Quality of Life: Aubrey Surovik
- Mass Fund: Melissa Swick
 - Respect Life: Carol Hall
 - Sunshine: Vanessa Burzynski
 - Refreshments: Carolyn Maniscalco
 - Fellowship: Juli Keller
 - Ride Coordinators: Cathy Melacon & Christina Ridley

Youth: Stacey Garcia

Legislation: Sharon Castillo

Education/Scholarship Program: Christine Maniscalco

Spiritual Enhancement: Yvonne Rinaldi

Leadership: Veronica Noel

- Membership: Veronica Noel
- Communication: Jo Ann Nowak
- Standing Rules: Veronica Noel

Projects: Mary Jo Surbrook

- National Projects: Mary Jo Surbrook
- Habitat for Humanity: Rosemary Mahony/

- Local Projects: Mary Jo Surbrook
- Local Projects: Mary Jo Surbrook

Budget Committee: Carolyn Wells

Ways & Means: Meghan Rinaldi

Book Donations Needed

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.



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.

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 persons needing employment
Seth Ahenkoru
Rita Baker
Jane Barrett
Peggy Bell
Waymen Bergeron
Brasseaux Family
Broadway Family
Colby Broussard
Shirley Burzynski
Lucia Casas
Robert Castillo
Kay Conry
Courtney, Kristofer & Kenclriek
Liz Crowell
Paul Currie & Family
New baby boy Cummins
Tom & Helen Danish
Gerald & RaNae Dykema
Pat Durrett
Elizabeth and John Paul Ewing
Baby Ewing
Ronald Felder, Jr.
Killian Ford & Erin Polichino children
Laura Freeman
Barbara & Krystal Garcia
Glenna Golsley
Ray Glozar
Corey Guidry
Judy Gulotta
Theresa Hadaegh
Carol Hall
Mark Hammond
Erin Holleran
Richard Hebert
Arren Hill
Andrea Hink

James Hoepfl
Janette Holan
Eva Hutcheson
Barry Jackson
Reginald Jackson Jr.
Karen
Baby Kasara and mom,
Krystal
Patty Keerci
Garen Kidd
Killian
Bodette Kistyba
Robbie Lee
Leroy
Lindsay
Ruth Ann Linseisen
Long Family
Natalie Longer
Matthieu Family
Patricia Matthieu
Debby McAdams & Son
Daniel McKey
Rita McGuyer
Cristy McNally
Carl Meña
Lorin Meynard
Franis Meaux
Verita Meaux
Fr. Dan Morales & Family
Mary Gayle Moses
Gladys & Herman Mueck
Ruth Nicholas
Michelle Nix
Curtis Oakley
Amy Palmisano
Jack Parsons
Ann Patin
Linda Payne
Martha Payne & Family
Angela Perkins
Natalie Podroza

Polichino Family
Susie Prather
Preslie
Justin Prieto
Donna Quinn
Colene Ripley
Clay Sbrasch
Bill Scamordo
Patricia Scamordo
Max Scerbo
Mark Simon
Leona Berken Smahall
Jaydon Smith and parents
Tabor and Gina Smith
Carla Soileauveva
Neva Sposato & Family
Blake Suarez
Justin Surovic
Barbara Swick
Elizabeth Thompson
Alain Troutt
Tom Vicery
Sarah Walku & Family
Carolyn Wells
Courtney Wells
Kendrick Wells
Kristofer Wells
Eliana Willard
Debbie Williams
Jessica Zarate
Zachary Zaunbrecher

