



THE SPIRIT



Issue 25

Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731

Klein Church Rd, Spring TX 77379

Court Regent's Message

Priscilla Hargraves, Court Regent

Hello CDA Sisters!

I pray you had a blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Dub and I were blessed to spend some time with our daughter Gizelle and her family in Castle Rock, Colorado. On a personal note: I had prayed for snow, but not while we were driving there or on our way home! Well, the Lord granted my wish. Our trips there and back were pleasant and uneventful. But after we arrived in Castle Rock, they had a 25-year record snow for the month of November. So, we were granted the opportunity to see a lot of snow, more than I had ever seen. It was truly a beautiful sight! I thank the Lord for the opportunity to be with our family and to observe the beauty of His creation!

As we enter the season of Advent and prepare for the coming of our Lord at Christmas, let us all remember the gifts the Lord has bestowed on us. May we focus on the good times we have had and continue to have with our family and friends, on our continued service to others in need, and to our ongoing personal spiritual growth.

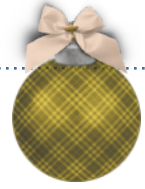
May God's blessings during this holy season be with you and your families!





Clergy Corner

Court Chaplain, Deacon Dub Hargraves



December 2019 Chaplain's Corner

Looking back on another year that seems to have zoomed past us, I cannot help but feel an intense gratitude to the CDA for all they have done to evangelize those in need in our midst. You are truly "Missionaries" of God.

On a more seasonal point: The children were nestled all snug in their beds; While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads . . . ("Twas the night before Christmas," Clement Clarke Moore)

What visions danced in your head as you awaited the wondrous night of nights as a little child? Your own bicycle? A drum? A doll? A Pac-Man game? When did your hope and vision for the real meaning of Christmas become more mature?

Now, do we have dreams of how to influence our children, grandchildren, to glorify God? Dreams of what they'll become when they graduate college? Dreams of owning your own business? Dreams of retiring? Dreams of spending more time with the people you love?

This autumn, did you lie on the lush grass and look through the falling leaves to see shapes in the drifting clouds? Did you see the form of an angel? The outline of a horse? The silhouette of the Eiffel Tower? What did you see?

God created us with vivid imaginations so we can dream of how God's kingdom on Earth can be as it is in heaven.

Here are my three dreams for our Catholic Church:

- 1) Rephrasing Jesus, I dream that all may be One, as Jesus is in his father and as he is in us. I dream that this whole world may be re-energized and united by the love of Jesus for us and our love for one another.
- 2) I dream that our Catholic Church may be so re-energized that it is recognized as the bridge-builder within families, and among parishes, nations, races, religious denominations, and cultures. With whom can you build a bridge?
- 3) I dream that all people, starting with us Catholics, can quote and live out a verse of the Bible that gives our lives passion and purpose, direction and fulfillment, guiding us into God's kingdom. What is your verse? (Mine is Matthew 6:33.)

What is your dream; your vision for Christmas? What is your **sugarplum**?

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas.

May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas.

Be Bold! Celebrate the Incarnation! Be Catholic!

Dea. Dub. Chaplain





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Court News!

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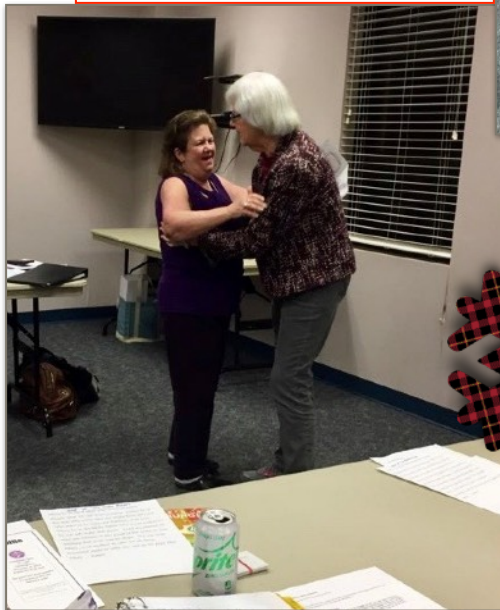
Gizelle Williams
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**Welcome new member,
 Loretta Hughes!!**



"Therefore welcome one another
 as Christ has welcomed you, for the
 glory of God." - Romans 15:7





Mass Cards Committee:

The fee for Mass cards is \$2.50. This is your opportunity to give the gift of prayer, as well as contribute to the Memorial Scholarship Fund. Please contact Peggy O'Neil, 281-440-0286, or email at cda2731masscards@gmail.com, with mass card requests and/or questions. **Mass cards are always available at the meetings.**



Circle of Love:

HOPE CENTER HOUSTON - *Karen Doolittle*

November manna bag assembly and PBJ sandwich making for Hope Center went quick as usual. Everyone is very generous with their donations and volunteer time which is appreciated greatly by the staff and guests of Hope Center. Third Saturday followed and we served 28 guests' breakfast and lunch. Third Saturday's give us the opportunity to

interact with the guests and we see and feel their appreciation for the meals we serve them. They are also helpful with cleanup, tables and floors, so that is also a big help to the 'cook team'.



December dates are just days before Christmas. Thursday December 19th we will assemble manna bags and make 50 PBJ sandwiches which will be delivered the morning of December 20th. Third Saturday is December 21st where the 'cook team' will prepare and serve breakfast and lunch for the guests.



Anyone is welcome to join us on Thursdays preceding the Third Saturday and you are welcome to join us at Hope Center any Third Saturday as long as you submit a Certificate of Completion of the Food Handlers course. Watch this space in January for details about the Food Handlers course.





Hope Center Website: <https://www.1960hopecenter.com/>

August Newsletter: [Hope Center August 2019](#)



"Pray, hope, and don't worry." - Padre Pio

Upcoming Events

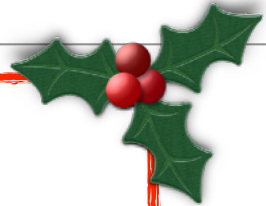
Advent Penance Service

Christ the Good Shepherd Catholic Community

12/18/2019

Reconciliation begins at 7PM

If you like to volunteer as a reconciliation hostess, please contact Cristina Patetta at cristina.patetta@cgscc.church or call 346-236-6466



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Word of Life December Newsletter

Since December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to December 9. (It is normally a holy day of obligation, but it is not obligatory this year). In this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began at the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of conception, lovingly knit together by God the Father.



"This Virgin Mother of the Only begotten of God is called Mary, worthy of God, immaculate of the immaculate, one of the one." - Origen

On this Solemnity, consider praying Pope Francis' Prayer for the Immaculate Conception: "We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness." You can also offer this prayer for religious liberty to Mary Immaculate.

Rosary Ministry

If you recall from the November newsletter, our rosary committee was making and planning to deliver over 100 rosaries to the VA medical center. Cathy Peplau, Caylin Jerome and Sheryl Bihler-Lopez delivered 130 handmade rosaries and more than 100 religious items and cards to the VA Medical Center on Friday, November 8th. Fr John Ugobueze was very appreciative of all the hard work done by the CDA to ensure the patients at the VA would have rosaries. He assured them there is always room for handmade rosaries. Per the committee chairman, Sheryl Bihler-Lopez, the rosary committee will resume making rosaries after the 1st of the year. More information will be provided at that time.



St. Gianna's Hope

Memorial Mass for Infant Loss

January 22, 2020 at 7 pm
Prince of Peace Mary Chapel

For families who have experienced the
loss of an infant from miscarriage
or early infant death

Reception to follow immediately after Mass

Please bring a stuffed animal which will be passed
on to children through our Outreach Ministry.

Hosted by: Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court of the Holy Family #2597



PRINCE OF PEACE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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Houston, TX 77070
281-469-2686
www.pophouston.org

More info:
Mary Jane Albert
281-381-0309
maryjalbert@sbcglobal.net





State News

The **Lone Star Messenger** has published a September 2019 Edition. Check out the link to read it: [The Lone Star Messenger September 2019 Edition](#)

Texas CDA Facebook site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/texascd/>

****Make sure you check out the renovated Texas CDA website:** <http://www.texascd.org/#loaded>. It has a whole new look and easy to explore.



Go on the site and learn more about your organization and the 2019 - 2021 Texas CDA Goals!

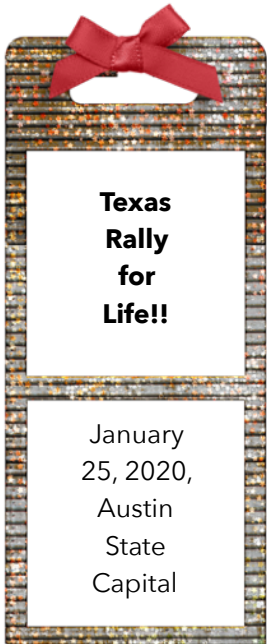
1. Open our hearts to the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.

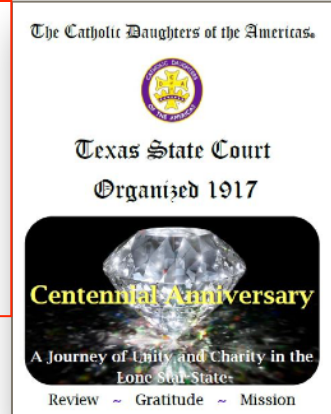
2. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, offer homes to the homeless.

Lord, we intercede for those that do not have shelter of their own. Help us to serve them with protection from the elements, to have food and clothing. Bless them with peace of mind.

Link: [Texas CDA Goals](#)



To purchase: The Diamond Anniversary Texas CDA History Book, "A Journey of Unity and Charity in the Lone Star State", compiled by T. Vacek, April 2017, for \$10. This 145-page book contains the legacy of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Texas from 1903 through the next eleven decades. *Diana Kammer, Email: dianakammer@aol.com*



On April 14-18, 2021 - the 52nd Biennial State Convention will take place in Texarkana, TX. There is a need for volunteers for: Registration, Hospitality, Credentials, Friday Fun Night, Music, Liturgy and more. Please pray on whether you would like to volunteer and contact Mary Jane Schuster, via text or email at: 469-556-1549, maryjaneschuster@hotmail.com



National News



SAVE THE DATE!

Texas State Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

2020 NATIONAL CONVENTION

Downtown Sheraton Hotel

Dallas, Texas

July 15-19, 2020

Texas Catholic Daughters are very excited to be hosting the 2020 National Convention as our very own National Regent Olga Samaniego from El Paso, Texas, will be presiding. Many chairmen and volunteers will be needed to plan and make this a wonderful memory for Olga, for Texas and the visiting Catholic Daughters from across our nation. It is our intent to include CDA members from across our great state of Texas to volunteer and assist with the many functions and activities involved in this national convention.



OLGA SAMANIEGO
National Regent

Committees include: Liturgies (ushers, choir members); Hospitality (airport transport, Hotel, Buses); Registration (will have a schedule so no one has to work over 2-3 hours); Convention Bag assembly (weekend prior to opening of convention); Monitors; Pages; Exhibits; Setting up and resetting meeting rooms; Jugs of Lotto; raffle; Silent Auction; Walk/Run monitors.



Sheraton Dallas Hotel
400 N Olive St, Dallas, TX 75201
(214) 922-8000

For additional information or to volunteer –Contact:
2020 National Convention Chairman Carolyn Malik at
(830-857-2112) or email cdacarlo@sbcglobal.net



Legislation:

Resources:

Texas Legislature Online: <https://capitol.texas.gov/> National website: <http://www.house.gov/>

To locate your state and national legislatures: Texas: <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us/Home.aspx> and National: <https://www.house.gov/representatives>

A really good source to keep up to date on human rights and human dignity for ALL: <https://www.humanlifeaction.org/>

Word of Life Flyer for December 2019: [Word of Life December 2019](#)

WORD OF LIFE: DECEMBER 2019
Recommended sites are provided for you are welcome to use these materials as you wish!

FEATURED THIS MONTH...

- Advent**
The season of Advent is a time of preparation as they draw our hearts and minds to preparing for the celebration of the Lord's birth as Christmas and the Church's special season of the end of time. During this time of preparation and spiritual waiting, we also remember important figures who are preparing for the birth of their children. This Advent season, consider highlighting the candle "W" to represent Our Saviors Who's Unconquered Triumph! It is available in a variety of formats on the bottom of this bulletin.
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
Patronal Feast day of the United States of America (December 9, 2019)

Since December 8 falls on a Sunday this year, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to December 9. It is a solemnity, a holy day of obligation, but it is not obligatory this year. In the past, we celebrate Mary's conception from the state of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began at the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, how can we honor the Virgin at the moment of conception, bringing her together by God the Father?

The Immaculate Conception is sometimes confused with the Annunciation. This bulletin features the text to help all Catholics know how important celebrations. On the Solemnity, consider praying for families. *Source: St. Elizabeth's Annunciation*. We can do more of our Immaculate Conception, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and adoration. *You can also visit the [pages on Immaculate Conception](#) in Mary's Immaculate.

*You are invited to use the 2019-2020 Revised Life Program materials: www.lifeaction.org

On November 21, Archbishop Joseph Naumann of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, and Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities, and more than a dozen other pro-life leaders sent a [letter to President Trump](#) thanking him for his work to protect the lives and rights of unborn children in international women's rights, health and education programs funded by the American taxpayer.

The current cloud on the horizon, however, is a push by US Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) to use taxpayer dollars to fund abortions in overseas aid programs -- a policy overwhelming opposed by the American people. She also wants to impose onerous reporting requirements specifically targeting pro-life and pro-family organizations. Sen. Shaheen's push is a gift to the international abortion industry and hurts worthwhile US aid programs.

Write to your Senators today to tell them the Shaheen amendment must be removed from the Senate's State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill.

Write your Senators today...[Voter Voice NCHLA Respond](#)



"Always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented." --Elie Weisel

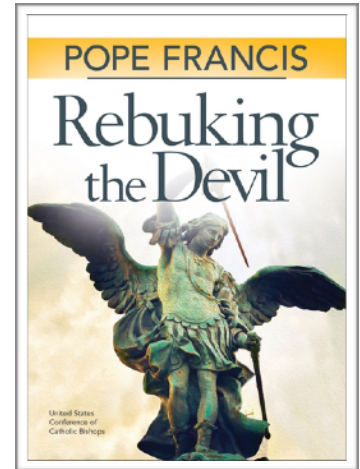


Please do not forget our Catholic Bishops site, if is full of information: <http://www.usccb.org/>

Check out: [The Vatican: The Holy See](#)



Pope Francis has a new book in publication: 'Rebuking the Devil'
Check it out here, and make sure to get your copy!: [Rebuking the Devil](#)



"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." - James 4:7



National CDA Website:

www.catholicdaughters.org



Click link below to see the Summer 2019 issue of SHARE, if you did not receive a hard copy in the mail:

[Share Summer 2019](#)



(NOTE: you must have 'flash' to view)

National September 2019 Newsletter:

[National Quarterly September 2019](#)

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.

- ◆ Be women of Faith
- ◆ Encourage Spiritual Growth
- ◆ Increase membership
- ◆ Promote the motto of "Unity and Charity"

"This is the day that the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it." - Psalm 118:24



The Texas State Court was organized January 25, 1917. Our Mission Statement is a reflection of the CDA motto of Unity and Charity; "The members of the Texas State and Local Courts love Christ and His Church. We are dedicated to leading others to Christ and to His service through active participation in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas."



Birthdays

- Sue Ann Denning, 24th
- Esther Lara, 20th
- Cathy Miller, 10th
- Maria Vitucco, 26th

Anniversaries

- Mary Giles, 7th
- Kathryn Kietur, 28th
- Patricia Kocan, 2nd
- Katherine Lee, 15th
- Cathy Peplau, 8th
- Phylis Rourke, 17th

"May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live." - Irish Blessing

Dates to Remember

CDA Calendar for December 2019

5th CDA Social-7:00 PM, Rm. B207-209

9th Feast of the Immaculate Conception

14-15th Community Weekend

19th Hope Center ministry-3:00 PM, Soc. Hall

19th Bd. Meeting, 6:30 PM, Library

21st Meal at Hope Ctr., 10:00 AM-2:00 PM

25th **Merry Christmas!**

COL forms are sent from state to courts



Christmas Blessings

