



THE SPIRIT

Issue 15

Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731

18511 Klein Church Rd, Spring TX

Court Regent's Message

Priscilla Hargraves, Court Regent

Greetings to all!

As we head into the month of October, our secular world reminds us "It's time to get ready for Halloween, then Thanksgiving, and Christmas! Hurry, hurry, hurry! You've got to get things done! There's so little time to do it all!" Do you/we ever feel this way: frazzled, always in a rush, never time to sit and reflect on all the blessings the Lord has given us? In the hustle and bustle of getting things done, let us try to focus on the spiritual messages the Lord is sending us during these special times, messages that may help us, our families and our communities.

Our emphasis as CDA women is to grow spiritually through prayer, sacrifice and charity toward others. These events, if we allow them, may become our means to spiritual growth, and our love for the Lord and His Mother.

During the Fall, watch for our spiritual and charitable activities in "The Spirit" and the bulletin. The month of October, we will pray the Rosary as a group, provide Mass cards at Community Weekend, prepare manna bags for the clients at the 1960 Hope Center and have a booth at the Fall Festival to provide information about the CDA and Mass cards for those requesting them.

Join us wherever you are able. Not only will you become part of a great group of women, your life will be enhanced in the process!

In Unity and Charity!

'Order your soul; reduce your wants; live in charity; associate in Christian community; obey the laws, trust in providence.' – St. Augustine





Clergy Corner

Court Chaplain, Deacon Dub Hargraves

October: The Month of the Rosary

As fall arrives and we start to look forward to the Holidays, the Liturgical year of Holy Mother Church draws to a close.

In the traditional calendar, many of the feasts between mid-September and the First Sunday in Advent make reference to conflicts between Christianity and Islam, and great victories in battles in which the Church—and, more broadly, Christendom—was threatened. The memory of these events turns our thoughts to the end times, when the Church will undergo trials and tribulations before the return of Jesus, Christ the King. We are certainly experiencing some at the present.

It may not be obvious, how dedicating the month of October to the Holy Rosary fits into this pattern. But the rosary—and, more specifically, **Our Lady of the Rosary**—is credited with victory in a number of the battles that those feasts celebrate. Paramount among these is the Battle of Lepanto (October 7, 1571), in which a Christian fleet defeated a superior Ottoman Muslim fleet and stopped the westward expansion of Islam in the Mediterranean.

In honor of the victory, Pope Pius V instituted the Feast of Our Lady of Victory, which is still celebrated today as the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7). And, in 1883, when Pope Leo XIII officially dedicated the month of October to the Holy Rosary, he made reference to the battle and the feast.

But, we must remember, October is not dedicated as the month of Mary, that is May. October is dedicated as the **Month of the Rosary** and October 7 is the liturgical feast of **Our Lady of the Rosary**.

The best way to celebrate the Month of the Holy Rosary is, of course, to pray the rosary daily.

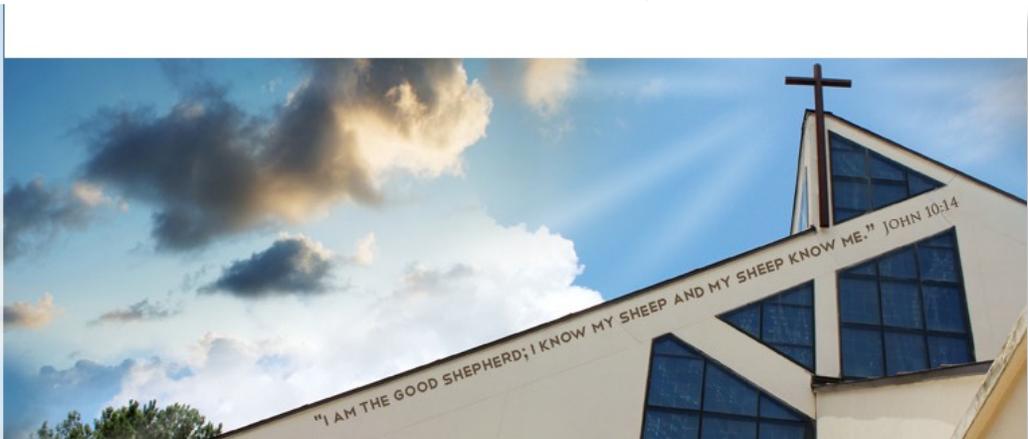
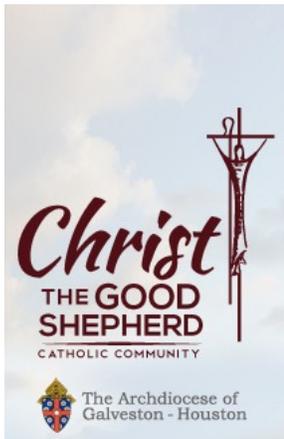
According to our Catholic tradition and history, St. Dominic received the Holy Rosary directly from the Blessed Virgin in 1206. He had been praying and doing penances because of his failure to defeat the Albigensian heresy. Mary appeared and consoled and encouraged him. But, the Blessed Mother also gave him a mighty weapon, **the Rosary**.

And, because this was a new way of praying, our Blessed Lady taught him how to say the Rosary and asked him to **preach this devotion and to teach others to pray** it as well. Since that time many victories, both personal and public, have been credited to the recitation of and meditation on the Holy Rosary. The sad aspect is, we are still at “war” in our world and even in our Church, in one way or another. Satan makes sure of that.

The power of the Rosary is not contested by most Catholics. Let us love this gift given to us by Our Lady. Let us keep this devotion from getting lost in the shuffle or pushed to one side. We may tell ourselves that it takes too much time...but it really doesn't, if we break it down. If five decades all at once is too difficult to fit into the day, maybe try praying one at a time. One decade of the Rosary takes a couple of minutes to pray (not say) reverently. It's not ideal, but if necessary, mute the sound during the commercials while you watch TV and say your Rosary.

But, pray it we must; for the survival of our Church and our world. We, my sisters in Christ, can conquer all difficulties and wages of battle with prayer and the presence of our Blessed Mother and her Son, Jesus. We accomplish both when we pray the Rosary. Let us join in our ancestry of the ages and give it to God through Mary, His mother.

Mary, Queen of Heaven, intercede for us.



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Court News!

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In preparation for the Thanksgiving season, I started '100 Days of Grace and Gratitude' devotional journaling a few days ago. It is so powerful, to just spend 5 minutes a day, focusing on positive, thankful thoughts. It is a great way to begin or end your day. I highly recommend this exercise! I hope you are all having a peaceful, graceful beginning to your Fall season!



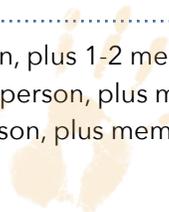
Mass Cards Committee:

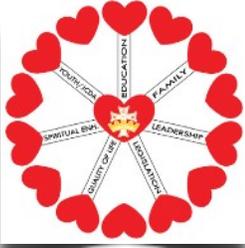
The fee for Mass cards is \$5.00. This is your opportunity to give the gift of prayer, as well as contribute to the Memorial Scholarship Fund and a charity approved by our court. Please contact Peggy O'neil, 281-440-0286, or email at cda2731masscards@gmail.com, with mass card requests and/or questions. **Mass cards are always available at the meetings.**



Opportunities! Needs a Chair and/or committee members:

- ✦ **PUBLICITY** - Chairperson, plus 1-2 members
- ✦ **CIRCLE OF LOVE** - Chairperson, plus members
- ✦ **SCRAPBOOK** - Chairperson, plus members





Circle of Love:



1960 HOPE CENTER - Karen Doolittle

1960 Hope Center project for September was reduced to making 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on Thursday Sept 20th. A huge thank you to Mary Giles, Jo Street, Mary Jane Brewster and Priscilla Hargraves for their donations of time and food items. Also thanks to Guylaine Belley and Priscilla Hargraves for delivering the sandwiches and other CDA donated items on Friday the 21st.

Manna Bags were not prepared at the request of Hope Center as they have a stockpile of Manna Bags and limited storage space. Items donated at the Sept CDA meeting are stored in the CDA cabinet at Church for use in October, your donations of chips, peanut butter and tuna salad are greatly appreciated. Information regarding October Manna Bag assembly and PB&J sandwich making will be emailed in a few weeks.

Thank you for your support and participation in Court CCGS #2731 charity project.



Families Praying Together as One - CDA National Website

As a family, we are meant to care for one another and one of the most important ways to take care of one another is through prayer. Not only does prayer bring families closer together, it is a source of strength. Now, remember we can pray for and with our families in a variety of ways:

- Daily prayer time:** Spending evenings with family members to pray on a certain topic; such as praying for the homeless, the sick and shut-in's, our CDA members, our National Officers, family members or your friends.
- Daily Family Devotions:** Devotions can be held at breakfast or after dinner. If children are involved, make it appropriate whereas the children can participate.
- Make a prayer poster:** Add one person to the list daily. Assign a family member a day of the week.

Your family can pray together in fun and unique ways with four types of prayer:

- Adoration (Praise)
- Confession (Sorry)
- Thanksgiving (Thank You)
- Supplication (Please - praying for the needs of others and self)

Complete the Sentence prayer for example listed above

- Lord you are... (Praise and Worship)
- Lord forgive me for (Confession of sin)
- Lord thank you for... (Thanking God)
- Lord please help... (Praying for other's need)
- Lord I need... (Pray for your needs)



'The family is the most ancient institution which God founded in paradise, when He called the first pair of human beings into existence. The first blessing which God gave was for the wellbeing of the family.' - St. John Vianney

Let’s not forget our children: use your fingers to remind children of people to pray for. (The Finger Prayer)

- Thumb - those closest to you (family and friends)
- Pointer - those who lead and guide you (teachers, priest, police and coaches)
- Middle - those in authority (city, nation and world leaders)
- Ring - this is the weakest finger that reminds us of those who are sick, lonely or sad
- Pinky - the smallest finger reminds us to pray for ourselves last



Prayer Projects

We can never pray too much for any one person. We need to pray to protect our love ones daily. Pray for them one by one and name by name. It will help to make a list of all people you would like to pray for. Not only will your prayer offer protection for that family member, where there are small children in the family, it will set a good example.

This is a great family prayer that can be done individually or in pairs. Each family member makes the sign of the cross:

- On the ears (that we might listen for God’s voice and hear His words)
- On the eyes (that we might see Gods glory in all of life)
- On the lips (that we might say the name of Christ and speak of god to others)
- On the heart (that we might remember that we are loved by God and belong to Him)
- On the hands (that we might show God to others though our family works and deeds)
- On the feet (that we as a family follow Christ and walk His way) Remember, a family that prays together, stays together

*‘Prayer is the place of refuge for every worry, a foundation for cheerfulness, a source of constant happiness, a protection against sadness.’
- St. John Chrysostom*



Local News

The Lone Star Messenger has published a Summer 2018 Edition. Check out the link to read it: <http://www.texasda.org/Newsletter/2018/State%20Newsletter%20-%20Summer%202018.pdf>



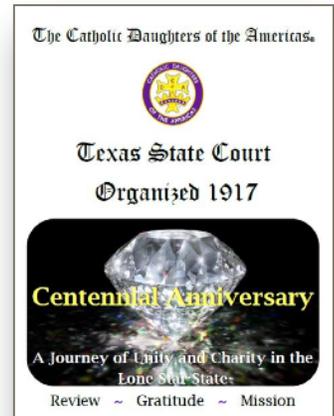
Texas CDA website: <http://www.texasda.org/#loaded>

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



Two new courts were established in TX so far this year. They are Court Angels of Mercy #2740, Our Lady of the Angels in La Joya, TX with 28 charter members and Court St. Monica Mother of St. Augustine #2742, San Agustin, Laredo, TX with 19 charter members. Congratulations!

Please consider purchasing *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 \$15. This 145-page book contains the legacy of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Texas from 1903 through the next eleven decades.



National News

National Clergy Consultant Fr. Ed Lamp's Sunday Reflection

Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary time September 30, 2018

Numbers 11:25-29

James 5:1-6

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Dear CDA and friends:

Some important issues are raised in this Sunday's readings. The Gospel consists of three separate pieces but they are in fact closely linked with each other and with the First Reading.

The disciples are not at all happy because they saw a man - who was not a disciple - cast out evil spirits. They are quite jealous obviously. They realize that they are in quite a privileged position in being closely associated with Jesus. They have even been given the privilege of sharing Jesus' powers of healing and driving out evil spirits. Now they see a complete stranger, one who has nothing to do with their Master, doing the same thing. He may even be using the name of Jesus to exorcise. They are indignant. They are angry. They even try to stop the man - from doing a good thing.

But Jesus tells them: "You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us." It is very easy for a chosen group to become elitist, to claim for itself a monopoly of doing good.

We Christians believe that the Church is God's special way of revealing himself to the world. But we really cannot go on to claim that therefore God is only to be found in the Church. That in our Church alone is there Truth and Goodness. To be honest, we have tended in the past to give that impression.

Within the Church, too, there have always been groups - and they are still among us - that feel they have something that no one else has. That only they are in possession of God's Truth, that only among their ranks can people be "saved". They often exert a good deal of their energies trying to prove that other groups or even the rest of the Church is deeply in error.



But if that were the case, then millions of people would be excluded from knowing or loving God or from doing his will. Should we say, for instance, because the majority of people in Asia or Africa are not Christian, that they have no hope in life, that they are all wicked people, condemned to eternal damnation?

A little experience of mixing with non-Christians in any society soon tells us that God is doing his work through all kinds of people and that many of them are very good. Perhaps those people believe in another religion or belong to no recognized religious grouping. Yet, they believe - in a way that can shame us Catholics - in the importance of truth, justice, love, service freedom, peace and non-violence.

In any government there are many good, dedicated and patently honest people who really serve the public. They really are public servants. Similarly, there are outstanding doctors, lawyers, teachers, businessmen who are sincerely "in search of excellence" and have a true "passion for excellence". There are many in our society committed to improving the quality of life.

During the many catastrophes - natural and man-made - that have struck our own and other parts of the world, we find people of faiths and of none donating very large sums of money. Every year at fund-raising events, thousands of people come to help welfare and charity services run by the Catholic Church or by other religious groups, irrespective of their own religions convictions. "If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, he most certainly will not lose his reward." These people often give to us Christians - and through us to the needy - far more than a cup of cool water. Surely God is present and working through all such people. And we can be sure that God will reach them in his own way.

What is of greater relevance to us is whether we Christians are really doing God's work. Just because we have the name of Christian is no guarantee that we are.

Today's Gospel moves on to a much more relevant problem as far as we Christians are concerned. There is a severe warning against those who prevent people from coming closer to God. It is regarded by Jesus as a most serious form of sinfulness.

The word "scandal" means originally a stumbling block, like a large stone in a person's way that causes him to trip and fall. Am I a stumbling block to those who might be in search of Jesus or his Church? For instance, would any person want to be a Christian because they know me? What kind of impression of Christian life or of the Church do I present to others?

Have we not heard people say, "I would not want to be a Christian. They are just like everyone else I know: they gossip, they tell lies, they cheat, they are greedy for money, they take revenge!" Non-Christians often have strange ideas about God, about Jesus, about Mary, about the Church. Where did they get those ideas from? What kind of image of Jesus do we present as parents, as teachers, as employers or superiors, as working colleagues?

So today's readings are basically saying two things: On the one hand, we have to learn to recognize that God can do his work through all kinds of people. St John, in his First Letter, says very bluntly: "Wherever there is a caring love there is God." Christians clearly have no monopoly on loving others. And we can add that wherever there is true justice being practiced, there is God; wherever there is true freedom being promoted or defended, there is God; wherever there is a person, perhaps a total stranger from another race or culture, who acts as a true brother or sister to me, there is God. And so on.....

On the other hand, as a Christian, through my baptism, I have been called, it is my vocation, to be for others another Christ. Far from being jealous of the good that others do, we need to hear the words of Moses today: "If only the whole people of the Lord were prophets, and the Lord gave his Spirit to them all."

We may get some indication of where we stand if we listen carefully to the scathing words of James in the Second Reading. What are our attitudes to wealth and poverty? To luxury side by side with indigence? To the glaring inequities between countries' standards of living? I am called not only to be for myself a good person. I am called to reach out, to love, to be just to others, to be fully free with and for others, to be truly brother or sister. I am also called to be a prophet, to proclaim in words and actions that the Source of all love, justice, freedom and solidarity with others is a God who loves, who forgives and who wants all to share in a life that is enriched on every level.

Father Ed



Please see flyer for the **12 day France Pilgrimage**: https://www.catholicdaughters.org/events/Pilgrimage/2019_CDA_Pilgrimage_flyer.pdf

CDA National Calendar:

October 7: Respect Life Sunday

October 21: CDA Sunday

October 27: Make a Difference Day

October 30 - November 3: White Ribbons Against Pornography Week



'Never tire of firmly speaking out in defense of **life** from its conception and do not be deterred from the commitment to defend the dignity of every human person with courageous determination. Christ is with you: be not afraid!'
- St. John Paul II

Legislation:

October is *Respect Life Month*. Please see link to US Conference of Catholic Bishops Respect Life Program:

<http://usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/respect-life-month.cfm>



Next year's March for Life will be held January 18, 2019 in Washington DC. Expect TX to follow along in Austin, but an update will be posted here, as the date gets closer.

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"*

The theme for the 2017 - 2019 term is:

"Be Not Afraid:" -

St John Paul the Great



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."



'Life is sacred, that is to say, it is the supreme value, to which all other values are subordinate.' - Albert Einstein

Dates to Remember



CDA Calendar for October 2018

- 4th - Gen. Meeting, 7:00 PM, Rm. B207-209
- 7th - Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, Corporate Rosary,
After 9:00 Mass, Chapel
- 11th - VIRTUS Training, for any members who need it or need to renew
- 18th - Hope Center ministry, 4:00 PM, Social Hall
- 20th - Fall Festival/Membership drive/Silent Auction, 10:00-6:00, Parish grounds
- 21st - CDA Day***
- 30th - Financial Review, 7:00 PM

***October 21 is CDA Day! More details to come, via email.

VIRTUS Training

The Diocese requires VIRTUS Training of all members. Once trained, or retrained, members need to provide the Financial Secretary Jean Sanfillippo with the Certification Training date.

This month, October 11, Christ the Good Shepherd is hosting a training session at 6:30 PM. Please contact Dory Hanys or Yeimy Lara (281.376.6831) with any questions.





Birthdays

Mary Fullerton	Oct. 02
Shirley Varsel	Oct. 06
Shuri Rodriguez	Oct. 17
Marla Clancy	Oct. 19
Norina Fisher	Oct. 23

Anniversaries

Mary Fullerton	Oct. 13
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Click link below to see the Summer issue of SHARE, if you did not receive a hard copy in the mail:

<http://books.midstatesgroup.com/books/xift/>

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

Share is published in Midstates Group now. This is a sight for books to be posted. There are multiple reading options on this sight.



National September 2018 Newsletter:

https://www.catholicdaughters.org/Qtr_Newsletter/2018_09/Sept_2018_CDA_Quarterly_Newsletter.pdf

National CDA Website:
www.catholicdaughters.org



'May your heart always be the temple of the Holy Spirit. May Jesus always be the helmsman of your little ship. May Mary be the star which shines on your path and may she show you the safe way to reach the Heavenly Father.' - St. Padre Pio