



Issue 29

THE SPIRIT

Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731

Court Regent's Message

Priscilla Hargraves, Court Regent

Hello all! And Happy May to you!

May is our last month of Spring. Most years it is the time when we look forward to the end of school, to celebrating graduations and a long, lazy summer. This year we are looking forward to "reopening Texas" as we come back from the Covid-19 pandemic.

So, what are you planning to do as businesses come back online? Are you one of the people who was furloughed during this crisis? Are you happy you will be going back to work? Will you be going back to work? Hopefully, your job is waiting for you to return, and your life can return to "normal". The children will still not be returning to school. Some things will not be returning to normal for a while yet. I'm sure we're all praying that there will not be an increase in illness with businesses reopening, and things returning to "normal".

Amidst all the sadness, stress, and anxiety, I have been impressed by all the good things that have happened during this crisis. Medical personnel, researchers, first responders, businesses, and ordinary people have gone out of their way to help others and relieve some of the burden others have had to bear. Many of our CDA members have helped other parishioners at Christ the Good Shepherd by calling on them to assess their needs, made up manna bags for Hope Center Houston, and delivered food and other needed items to those who could not leave their homes. Many say their prayer lives have been enriched, they are taking more time to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, to meditate, and to participate in online services. Since they are not going to work every day, they are spending more quality time with their families including praying together, eating together, and playing together.

But first and foremost, May is the Month of Mary! We honor her as the virgin Mother of Our Lord, and our mother given to us at the time of Our Lord's crucifixion, and as the Queen of Heaven and Earth. She is also the Patroness of the CDA! As Catholic Daughters, let's be sure to include her in our prayers every day, in thanksgiving for her love and caring and in petition for our families, friends and the world during this current pandemic.

Blessings!
Priscilla





Clergy Corner

Court Chaplain, Deacon Dub Hargraves

May 2020 Chaplain's Corner

As I write this, I am so very aware of the past couple of months where we have all undergone a very intense engagement with emotions, the unknown, fear, bewilderment, and even spiritual questions about God: WHERE IS GOD in all of this?

We have endured being shut off from our loved ones, our jobs in some cases, restaurants, our friends, social activities and, above all, the Blessed Sacrament and our Church. We yearn for our God because we have lived under the COVID-19 restraint through one of the most exciting times of the Church year, the Easter Celebration. And, yes, we have been able to sustain our faith through social media BUT that is not the same as receiving the precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. So, like it or not, we have all persevered in an unprecedented time of darkness even in the light of celebrating the Easter season. But that, my sisters, is not truly what we have experienced!

Through this period in time, Emmanuel, (God with us) has never left us. We may have felt abandoned but, we have never, ever, been alone, not for one moment. We have had our Lord, the Blessed Mother, our Guardian Angel, our Saint and the list goes on. And, as a result, we have been the light thought this cloudy time in our world. As St. Theresa of Avila once said, Christ has no body now but yours, and YOU have been that Mystical Body of Christ as you have fed the hungry, helped those in need, healed (called them back into the fold) those in despair and been prayer warriors for a world of confusion, suffering and isolation.

But we will turn the corner. As we celebrate the Easter Season, as best we can, resurrection and renewed light, we move into May the month of our beloved Blessed Mother. And, on the last day of this month, May 31st we culminate the Easter Season as we celebrate Pentecost Sunday. We will celebrate the birthday of the Church and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete. We will once again be reminded, in a very special way, that we were never celebrating the light of Easter in the dark because we were not, never have been and never will be alone. GOD is WITH US!! Through the POWER of the Holy Spirit and Our Blessed Mother we will relish in, and unleash, the Light of our God and Savior on a new and more profound level than we have though this whole ordeal. Not only will we have a renewal of the power and the FIRE of the HOLY SPIRIT that we will celebrate on the 31st, we will also have the Blessed Mother in a special way.

Like Jesus Himself, we look to our Blessed Mother as an example of what faith means and is all about. As the Mother of Christ, Mary lived her life and her ministry in a total spirit of faithfulness and service. She responded to the call to be a disciple. For us to be disciples, we also need to be good stewards of the gifts we have received from our Lord especially the gifts of grace, faith and the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis has said on more than one occasion, "We cannot be part-time Christians and Catholics! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day." I suspect that is how Mary lived her life from that moment she turned it over to God and God's Will. So, let us vow together, during this month of Mary, to follow her example, and seek to be the kind of good stewards that will make our faith community stronger and more effective.

May we all find the strength to live and practice our faith, being faithful to the sacraments and look for ways to be sacrament to one another. As we hear in Holy Scripture,

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24- 26).

Dea. Dub. Chaplain



Court Officers

Priscilla Hargraves

Regent

cdacourt2731@gmail.com

512.376.1488

Charlotte Prieve

Vice Regent

caprieve@aol.com

281.639.8969

Mary Roberts

Recording Secretary

mlroberts1949@hotmail.com

Jean Sanfelippo

Financial Secretary

jmsanfelippo@comcast.net

Sheryl Andrews

Treasurer

sheryl.andrews952017@gmail.com

Deacon Dub Hargraves

Court Chaplain

chapdub@gmail.com

512.376.1497

Christine Maniscalco

District Deputy #54

christinemaniscalco1@gmail.com

713.515.6342

CCGS #2731 Website:

www.catholicdaughters2731.com

Court News!

Newsletter Editor:

Gizelle Williams

Newsletter Editor

gnbhargraves@gmail.com

281.224.5288

Hi Everyone!

If you are on Facebook, please go to this link. Father James is periodically giving 'live' talks, among other great information you can get from the site. Also, there are 'live' daily masses:

<https://www.facebook.com/christthegoodshepherdspring/>

Happy Mother's Day to all the Moms, wanna-be Mom, Aunts... etc!!

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:

Visit Hope Ctr website

HOPE CENTER HOUSTON - *Karen Doolittle*

Thursday April 16 was a different manna bag assembly day. With the parish facilities closed, the parish Business Manager Mike Stakes permitted CDA access to the Social Hall as he viewed our charity project/ministry as an 'essential service'. As I approached the PLC that afternoon Father James came out of the Admin Building to say hello, he missed seeing people around the campus. The short version of our encounter is he opened the PLC, pulled the dolly full of tables and helped set up the tables for our assembly line. He said the activity took him back to his days of working tables.

PBJ sandwiches were prepared earlier in the day, so all the team needed to do was assemble manna bags. Our 'line' was different, we had items on tables, but each table was staffed by one person. A bag was filled at the first table with items on that table then passed to the second table and continued to the end. At the last table a 'runner' transferred the bags to one of two tables for checking to make sure all items were in the bag then the full manna bag was placed into a traveling bag. Upon completion we folded and stacked the tables, loaded the car and the bags were delivered to Stephanie Howlett the 'kitchen queen' of Hope Center Houston.

Guests of HCH are receiving a hot meal delivered courtesy of BP at lunch every weekday. Dr. Bob, Paul (security) and another person fill Styrofoam a covered meal container with the food which is then taken to the front door and given to the guests who are waiting outside. On Fridays they are given a 'double' manna bag, and some days during the week are also given manna bags. There is an abundant supply of manna bags currently at HCH.

Questions, call, text or email Karen at 520-419-3652 or tenfoldone@gmail.com



"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed." -
Proverbs 19:17



Social Distancing for the win!



"Remember the past with
gratitude. Live the present
with enthusiasm. Look forward
to the future with confidence."

- St. John Paul II

The following is an article Sue Denning sent in, to be a positive and uplifting segment during this time of isolation. God gives us the tools we need to cope, when we are feeling overwhelmed:

Sunday, July 24

Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. – Psalm 22:9 (NIV)

“God never gives you more than you can handle.”

Ooph! How many times have we said that to the mother with a house full of sick kids? To the cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy? To the road-weary churchgoer brave enough to confess his doubt in overwhelming circumstances? But do we really think God believes we can keep standing on our own after the death of a spouse, the loss of a home, or the terror of a life-threatening illness?

If you are feeling guilty about repeating that quasi-comforting phrase to those who are hurting, then you're not alone. I'm guilty too. I've said it to friends with long to-do lists, neighbors with water damage, and old college buddies with life-changing decisions to make. Such an empty reply to what was clearly a cry for prayers and help.

Now I don't say it anymore. Instead, I believe that God does allow us to be given more than we can handle. He watches as we're loaded to the brim with finals, job stress, trials, and personal conflicts. It's not about punishing or testing us, but rather one single lesson: if God didn't do this, how would we ever learn that we need Him – and His grace – so desperately?

Looking back on times when I felt completely overwhelmed, it was then that I leaped into God's arms, clawing my way to find a better place in Him.

From now on, I'm rewriting the old saying to make this new version: God allows us to be given more than we can handle. But when we put our hope in Him, trust Him, and seek His help, He gives us the tools we need to handle those seemingly impossible situations.

Lord, thank You for giving me the opportunity to have to trust in You in the difficult times. Amen.

–Ashley Kappel

Digging Deeper: [Psalm 44:5-7](#) , [Jeremiah 39: 17-18](#)

Please see note from our Regent, Priscilla Hargraves:

THANK YOU!!

Father James, Deacon Lolo, the CGS Social Ministry Department, and I want to express our gratitude to all those who have assisted in any way to support the parish ministries during this time.

I also encourage any of our members, regardless of age or circumstance, who have any needs during this period to contact me or one of the officers for assistance. Our contact information is on page 3 of this newsletter.

Know that you have all been in my prayers throughout my time as Regent, but especially during this stressful time.

May our Loving Lord bless you and your families!

Priscilla



Congratulations Court!!:



Our court's website won 1st place in the State competition, in the established websites category!! It has been submitted to the National competition. WooHoo! Thank you all!! Everyone go check it out, if you've never seen it or have not been on it in awhile. It is our Court's official website, so get familiar with it, www.catholicdaughters2731.com and send suggestions and comments!

Upcoming Events

May Meeting Call-In Instructions

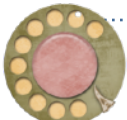
Thank you to all who joined our Zoom meeting last month! It was great to 'see' everyone. We will be experiencing our May meeting in the same fashion, via Zoom, on May 7th at 7pm. A Zoom meeting link will be emailed prior to the meeting for all to log on. Can't wait to see you all!



Rosary Ministry

Our meeting for April was cancelled due to social distancing. Please watch for notification as to whether the May meeting will be held or cancelled.

NEEDS!



Please consider volunteering for one of the positions: Scrapbook, Circle of Love, Family and Quality of Life, and Meeting Snacks/Refreshments. We are in need to fill these positions, as some of our committee chairs are doing double duty to keep them going. Many hands make light work!

State News and Events



The **Lone Star Messenger** has published a March 2020 Edition. Check out the link to read it: [The Lone Star Messenger March 2020 Edition](http://www.lonestarmessenger.com/march-2020-edition)

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

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



'Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.' -

1 Peter 4:10





National News



LETTER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS to the Faithful for the Month of May 2020:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The month of May is approaching, a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this “family” aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.

I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.

Dear brothers and sisters, contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial. I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me. I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 25 April 2020

Feast of Saint Mark the Evangelist

FRANCIS

First Prayer

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith. “Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”. In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection. Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves

them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust. Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health. Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus. Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity. Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer. Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course. To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.



'He who prays most receives most.'

--St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori

Legislation:

Resources:

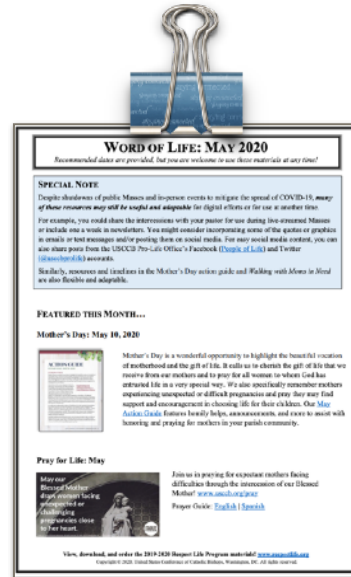
Texas Legislature Online: <https://capitol.texas.gov/> National website: <http://www.house.gov/>

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

Word of Life Flyer for May 2020: [Word of Life May 2020](#)

Catholic Bishops Current News: [USCCB News](#)

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



Human Life Take Action page: <https://www.humanlifeaction.org/take-action/>



**Stay Up
To Date!**



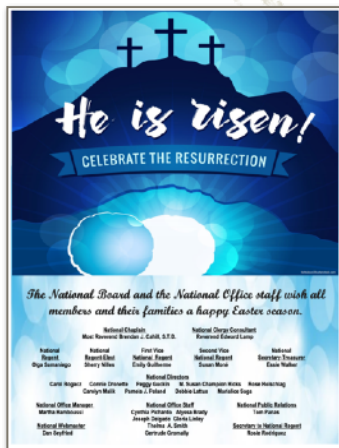
National CDA Website:

www.catholicdaughters.org

Click link below to see the Winter 2020 issue of SHARE, if you did not receive a hard copy in the mail:

[Share Winter 2020](#)

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



National March 2010 Quarterly Newsletter:

[National Quarterly March 2020](#)

**Don't forget to 'represent' by wearing CDA merchandise, even if you are just going for 'pickup' at the local market!: <http://store.catholicdaughters.org/>



Thanks for visiting the
**Catholic
Daughter
Store**

Now
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Shipping!**

Questions? Call Us! 212-877-3041
or eMail Martha at cdaorders@aol.com

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:

Karen Doolittle - May 29th

Anniversaries:

Jean Sanfelippo - May 1st
 Mary Jane Brewster - May 4th
 Candice Tyrell - May 6th
 Marla Clancy - May 31st

Priest Ordination:

Father James Burkart - May 22nd

Deacon Ordination:

Deacon "Dub" Hargraves - May 26th

Dates to Remember

CDA Calendar for May 2020

7th Gen. meeting, 7:00 PM, via Zoom

10th Mother's Day

14th Hope Ctr. Ministry, 3:00 PM, Soc. Hall

21st Board Meeting & Financial Review, 6:30 PM, Rm A206-208

State and National Dues payable



it's so fun

connecting with you