



Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731 – 10/2025

# The Spirit

Issue 50 – October 2025

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## 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 dignity for all.*

*\*Be women of faith*

*\*Encourage spiritual growth*

*\*Increase membership*

*\*Promote the motto of "Unity and Charity"*

## Announcements

Next meeting is on **Thursday, Nov. 6 at 7pm**

*\*Be women of faith*

*\*Encourage spiritual growth*

*\*Increase membership*

*\*Promote the motto of "Unity and Charity"*

**Remember the Fall Festival on  
Sat., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> from 11am-6pm**



## Officer's Message

### Kathy Kietur, Recording Secretary



How did I become a member of CDA? I had seen a notice in the church bulletin about CGS starting a CDA court within our parish. I was very interested and curious to discover what this was all about, so I joined. I am pleased to say I am a "Charter" Member of Christ the Good Shepherd Court #2731. I was absent from meetings for a few years but was nudged to return to the meetings. I am so glad I did. When I returned to the meetings, I found the court had grown in so many wonderful ways and I felt so welcomed. In 2024, I was asked to be Recording Secretary. I was very hesitant at first as I am not a leader of any sort, but I said "yes" knowing the Holy Spirit would guide me. I had the opportunity to attend the CDA State Convention this year which added more insight to what Catholic Daughters is all about, focusing on leadership and community. I feel I have grown within CDA and love helping at the various functions. We have been blessed with many committees who help this court function in charity and compassion. I look forward to helping this court grow in many ways, especially with the togetherness and welcoming we share. It takes a team to make this happen, but I have faith we can do this. Thank you for all the support and love you have shown me this past year as your Recording Secretary.

God Bless You...always and in all ways,  
Kathy Kietur  
Recording Secretary

## Court Chaplain Message

### Deacon Stacy Millsap, Court Chaplain

Greetings to my wonderful Sisters-in-Christ. Peace be with you! As I am writing this article, I am making the final preparations for a trip to Chicago to attend the International Catholic Stewardship Council's annual conference, where this year's theme is Stewardship: A Journey of Hope. And as I'm thinking about this upcoming experience, it occurs to me that much of what the Catholic Daughters of the Americas does is, in fact, stewardship!

With the arrival of the Fall season, the Church's liturgical calendar presents us with many examples of holy women to look to for inspiration and intercession. There are 6 days when we specifically honor our Holy Mother, Mary. I think it's wonderful how she always makes herself present to us and is so very willing to intercede on our behalf.

But God's grace is so bountiful that he also gives us the gift of honoring 6 more holy women: Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (10/1), Saint Teresa of Jesus (10/7), Saint Francis Xavier Cabrini (11/13), Saint Elizabeth of Hungary (11/17), Saint Cecilia (11/22), and Saint Lucy (12/13). Perhaps you bear the name of one of these mainly women or perhaps you have given their name and protection to a child. I simply hope you will take the time to read about their lives and imitate their devotion to our Lord.

You ladies are such an inspiration to me. You do so much to help so many that it makes me wonder at times if I'm doing all that I can or should be doing in service of our Lord and my fellow human beings. Thank you for all that you do.

Be blessed!

---Deacon Stacy Millsap



## Court Happenings

### Guest Speaker – August 7, 2025



Prior to the first official meeting of the year, CDA hosted a special gathering so that members could listen to a guest speaker. Benji Pardee visited the court to share an inspirational message with the 38 members who were present. She led a craft activity to serve as a physical reminder at each member's home of our commitment. Thank you to the officers for inviting this special guest for us as we step into a new year! May God bless us as we aim to be a light for our community.

### JCDA Bake Sale Prep – August 30, 2025

On the day prior to the bake sale, CDA and JCDA members joined to create delicious, sweet treats.



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### JCDA Bake Sale – August 31, 2025

JCDA and CDA partnered to host a bake sale fundraiser. The bake sale was held at the Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast held after the 7am, 9am, and 11am masses on August 31. Proceeds totaled \$430 which were split between CDA and JCDA.



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## New Committees – September 4, 2025

At the September meeting, new committees were announced. These new committees, their purpose, and the committee chair for each, along with our CDA liaison for JCDA, are listed in the table below.

Committee/Representative	Function	Liaison/Chair
CDA Liaison for JCDA	Serve as a representative between CDA and JCDA	Sade Effiong
Social Committee	Plan social events	Maggie Zanco
Outreach Committee	Call new members, sick members, etc.	Priscilla Hargraves
Directory Committee	Maintain electronic directory	Lori Maldonado
Service Project Committee	Organize charity projects	Mari Castaño
Funeral Reception Committee	Prepare food after funerals on a rotating basis	Patrice Hampton

*Make a Difference...*

## Join a Committee!



## Priesthood Sunday – September 28, 2025



Each year, CDA demonstrates support to the priests of our parish on Priesthood Sunday. This year, CDA members wrote tiny prayer cards for the priests and had a bouquet (shown here) delivered to the priests. Members offered to pray a rosary for each of the priests—Fr. James and Fr. Joseph.

*May God continue to bless our priests here at Christ the Good Shepherd, filling their hearts with love and their lives with the grace they need to fulfill their vocation to the priesthood in accordance with His holy will. Amen.*

## Manna Bag Assembly – Summer 2025

Twice monthly, Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons, CDA volunteers gather in the social hall to assemble “manna bags.” Sometimes other groups such as American Heritage Girls or individuals seeking volunteer hours for confirmation join to assist with this project. Once assembled, these bags are delivered to the Hope Center which is a local homeless center for distribution. Upcoming manna bag assembly meeting dates are below.

- Mondays at 7pm – 10/6, 11/3, (Tues) 12/2
- Thursdays at 3:45pm – 10/16, 11/13, 12/18



## New Members – October 2, 2025

CDA welcomed 5 new members to our group at the October meeting: Claudia Koakowski, Karla Koakowski, Nanda Havemann, Jennifer Hamilton, and Susie Habegger. Welcome to CDA!



## Baby Shower for Loving Choice – October 2, 2025

The Service Project Committee identified a specific service project for each month of the year. Loving Choice Pregnancy Center was the organization selected for October with the goal of collecting items which could be donated to the center. Loving Choice is a local resource for pregnant women providing pregnancy screening/tests, education about various topics such as pregnancy, fetal development, nutrition, childcare, etc. Additional assistance includes emotional support, referrals to community agencies, and points to purchase baby items earned through attendance at the educational classes. Thank you to everyone who donated items this month!



## Upcoming Events

### Trunk or Treat – October 24, 2025

CGS's annual trunk or treat event is around the corner. This year, JCDA members will assist with this. Wear your saintly costume and bring treaters through 5<sup>th</sup> grade to enjoy food, games, candy, and fellowship from 6:30 to 8pm!

### Flags Up Social Game Event – November 1, 2025

CDA District #54 members are cordially invited to join in fellowship on Saturday, November 1 from 1 to 4pm at Christ the Redeemer located at 11507 Huffmeister Road, Houston, TX 77065. Refreshments will be served and there will be door prizes. The cost is \$20 per person. RSVP to Nancy by October 24 by



texting (713)446-7630 or emailing  
[hawkeyeaviation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hawkeyeaviation@sbcglobal.net)

### Thanksgiving Meal Sponsorship – November 7, 2025

The service project for November is to adopt at least one family in need of items for a Thanksgiving meal. Please bring items to the November meeting on 11/7 which can be donated for this purpose.

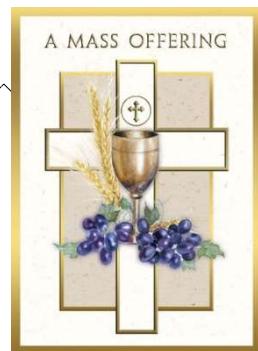
### Christmas Angels – December 7, 2025

The service project for December is to adopt at least one family in need of food items for a Christmas meal and toys for their children. Stay tuned for details about specific items needed. Bring items to our December meeting on 12/7.

### Ongoing

#### Mass Cards

CDA offers mass cards which provide scholarships for relatives of CDA members. Scholarships can be used for attendance at college or a catholic high school. Mass cards can be purchased at any CDA meeting or by contacting Mary Roberts.



### Praying the Rosary

On the second Thursday of the month, CDA joins at 6pm by the Marian windows of the church to pray the rosary together for the intentions of those gathered for prayer.



### Legislative Updates

#### Elections in 2025

Election Day is November 4 from 7am to 7pm. Early voting will be open from Monday, Oct. 20 through Friday, Oct. 31. George Bush Community Center at 6827 Cypresswood will serve as an early voting center. For other voting locations, click this link: <https://www.harrisvotes.com/Vote-Centers>

To learn more about issues in relation to church teachings, visit the USCCB website: <https://www.usccb.org/topics>

CDA National Legislative Link:

[https://catholicdaughters.org/circle-of-love#tabContent\\_2505669](https://catholicdaughters.org/circle-of-love#tabContent_2505669)



### State & National CDA News

#### State

Upcoming events at the state level are listed below.

## Court Christ the Good Shepherd #2731

- **Memorial Scholarship Fund** deadline on Jan. 31, 2026 – CDA relatives (i.e., son/daughter, grandchild, niece/nephew, brother/sister) are eligible to apply for the scholarship for attendance at a college or catholic high school. To access the application, [click here](#)
- **Biennial Texas State Convention** in Dallas on April 7-11, 2027.

### National

Upcoming events at the national level are listed below.

- **New York Pilgrimage to Italy** – November 3 through 14, 2025
  - <https://www.lpip.org/trips/12-day-italy-pilgrimage-the-jubilee-of-rome-2025-cda-ny>
- **Grand Ole Lady Contest** – purchase entry by January 5, 2026
  - Win a Weekend to the New Yorker Hotel (aka “Grand Ole Lady”) in New York! Enter for a chance to win a girls’ trip of 4 days and 3 nights to CDA national headquarters for up to 5 female guests!
  - Purchase entry by January 5 and trip must be taken by June 1, 2026
  - Click here for more information <https://catholicdaughters.org/grand-ole-lady-contest>
- **National Biennial Convention** – July 22-26, 2026
  - <https://www.lpip.org/trips/12-day-italy-pilgrimage-the-jubilee-of-rome-2025-cda-ny>



### Charities & Ongoing Projects

CDA supports several national charities and projects such as Habitat for Humanity, Apostleship of the Sea, Catholic Relief Services, Disaster Relief Fund, Human Life International, and Missionaries of Charity. For a full list visit the website: <https://catholicdaughters.org/national-projects-and-charities>





### **October Birthdays**

Shirley Varsel 10/6  
Marla Clancy 10/19  
Norina Fisher 10/23  
Patrice Rodriguez 10/23  
Fr. James 10/27  
Tabitha Madrid 10/29  
Beth Hutton 10/31

### **October Anniversaries**

Melody Barr 10/11  
Dawn Leal 10/19

### **November Birthdays**

Quetzy Reyes 11/2  
Sheryl Andrew's 11/4  
Yolanda Cadena 11/5  
Phyllis Cassar 11/10  
Karen Ringholz 11/10  
Phyllis Rourke 11/10  
One Tita Egbuna 11/12

### **November Anniversaries**

Lorena Ortiz 11/2  
Nancy Williams 11/3  
Lillian Kainer 11/4  
Missy Landry 11/14  
One Rita Egbuna 11/15  
Jean Philpot 11/16  
Jan Beall 11/17

### **December Birthdays**

Cathy Miller 12/10  
Tracey Perez 12/14  
Lori Maldonado 12/17  
Maria Vitucci 12/26

### **December Anniversaries**

Mary Giles 12/7  
Cathy Peplau 12/8  
Katherine Lee 12/15  
Phyllis Rourke 12/17  
Ellie Peterson 12/23  
Kathy Kietur 12/26  
Vickie Simental 12/27  
Suellyn Sweeney 12/27



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