

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS



Court St. Anthony #330 Council Bluffs, IA Spring 2016 CDA Newsletter

Motto: Unity & Charity

Purpose of CDA: As the largest organization of Catholic Women in the Americas and founded through the Knights of Columbus Men's Organization, our purpose is to participate in the religious, charitable, and educational Apostolates of the Church.

Mission Statement: Catholic Daughters Of The Americas strives to embrace the principles of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

CDA COURT OFFICERS 2014-2016

Regent	Angie Shea 955 Tower Ridge Hollow Council Bluffs, IA 51503 angieshea12@gmail.com	712-323-6168
Vice Regent	Sue Thomas - sthomas@fnni.com	712-366-6171
Rec. Secretary	Sue Meidlinger - semeidlinger@gmail.com	712-322-6350
Financial Secretary	Julie Marlow - jmarlow54@msn.com	515-418-2339
Treasurer	Shar Pekny - shar.pekny@gmail.com	402-657-5709
Chaplain	Fr. Chuck Kottas - ckottas@cox.net	712-322-8889
District Deputy	Terri Dynek - gmaterri13@gmail.com	402-679-6004
CDA Newsletter Editor/Publisher	Mary Sue Wickham - marysuecda@outlook.com	712-322-4456
CDA Website Editor	Carol Hollenbeck - carolhollenbeck@ymail.com	402-350-3834

CDA Court St. Anthony #330 Website: www.cda330.org

Iowa Catholic Daughters Website: www.iowacatholicdaughters.org

National Catholic Daughters Website: www.catholicdaughters.org

CDA MEETINGS**April 11, 2016**

Location: St. Peter's
Church, 1 Bluff St.

Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass

Dinner: St. Peter's Social
Hall: 5:45 p.m.

Meeting: 6:15 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Arlene Dye of
St. Croix Hospice

May 9, 2016

Location: St. Peter's
Church, 1 Bluff St.

Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass

Dinner: St. Peter's Social
Hall: 5:45 p.m.

Meeting: 6:15 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Monica Sciortino of
Methodist Hospital

Theme: Wear A Hat

June 13, 2016

Location: St. Peter's
Church, 1 Bluff St.

Time: 5:15 p.m. Mass

Dinner: St. Peter's Social
Hall: 5:45 p.m.

Meeting: 6:15 p.m.

June 26, 2016

Anna Baxter Day

West Bend Grotto

MEMBERSHIP**Anniversaries In April**

Joan Gubbels 1992
Anne Marie Marsh 2006
Amelia Mendoza-Andersen 2006
Jan Roth 2007
Sue Thomas 2007
Donna Collins 2013
Brenda Dresen 2013
Evelyn Kilnoski 2013
Sue Meidlinger 2013
Angie Shea 2013

Anniversaries In May

Mary Martin 2005
Kathleen Carlin 2013
Linda Pfenning 2013

Anniversaries In June

Yvonne Hanneman 1980
Carol Hollenbeck 2010
Shar Pekny 2013
Kathy Plourde 2013

CDA DINNER COMMITTEES**April 11, 2016**

Donna Collins
Rita Hughes
Kathy Plourde
Jan Roth

May 9, 2016

Carol Hollenbeck
Evelyn Kilnoski
Elaine Nugent
Maxine Whelchel

June 13, 2016

Marcella Lee
Irene Schlautman
Mary Sealock
Mary Alice Wickham
Mary Sue Wickham

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**April**

Maxine Whelchel 7th
Jan Roth 18th
Maxine Gotto 21st
Linda Pfenning 22nd
Linda Spencer 22nd
Joan Goeser 28th

May

Julie Marlow 4th
Ann Marie Marsh 4th
Elaine Nugent 14th
Alice Reiman 16th
Donna Leick 20th
Mary Roush 21st
Shar Pekny 25th

June

Brenda Dresen 1st
Judy Lookabill 6th
Marcella Lee 10th
Evelyn Seidler 15th
Joan Gubbels 19th
Luana Paluka 29th
Pam Ratigan 29th





*Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness Of Catholic Daughters,
Catholic Daughters Of The Americas Court St. Anthony #330*

Letter from Court #330 Regent Angie Shea: Dear Catholic Daughters, I will pray for you. Since the beginning of 2016 it has been a rough start on the new year on more than a few people. The words, "I will pray for you" have passed my lips numerous times. I mean it sincerely when I say those words. I feel honored to pray for someone and it helps me with my prayer life in return. Prayer to me is like smiling. It doesn't cost anything to smile at someone, yet notice how good it feels when you get a smile back. Here is my prayer for you, "Lord, I pray for my friend just as your Word tells me to pray, for healing. I believe you hear this earnest prayer from my heart and that it is powerful because of your promise. I have faith in you, Lord, to heal my friend, but I also trust in the plan you have for his or her life. I trust in your ways even when I don't understand. I don't know why my friend has to suffer, but I trust you. I ask that you look with mercy and grace toward my friend. Nourish his or her spirit and soul in this time of suffering and comfort him or her with your presence. I thank you for all of your blessings upon me and my friends. Amen." Your sister in Christ, Regent Angie Shea.

Letter from CDA #330 Court Chaplain Fr. Charles Kottas: The Catholic Church is a marvelous church because it gives us so many opportunities to grow in our faith. I was reflecting on the magnificence of the Advent and Christmas season and all the opportunities that we all have to grow in our faith through this season. If you take a moment and reflect on these avenues to Jesus' presence, you will more deeply appreciate the great gift that our liturgical celebrations are. If you start with November 1st and 2nd, the celebration of All Saints and All Souls is a wonderful way to reflect on our journey of faith toward heaven. In December, we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. We conclude our spiritual journey by reflecting on the Holy Family (Jesus, Joseph, and Mary) the feast of the Epiphany and finally the Baptism of the Lord. I hope that all of these liturgical celebrations have enriched your lives with Jesus' presence. As we begin the new year of 2016, I hope that all of us grow in our deep love and appreciation for the marvelous opportunities that we all have through our church's liturgical life to grow in our faith. A very Blessed New Year to all of you. Sincerely, Court #330 Chaplain Fr. Kottas.

Letter from District Deputy Terri Dynek: We just finished celebrating the birth of Jesus. We requested everyone to remember the reason for the season is Christ. Now we are getting ready to celebrate 40 days of fasting and penance before Easter in preparation for the glorious feast. Instead of giving up something why not stop and think about how we treat each other. The negative things we say, the way we gossip about others and the unkind things we do to others like Pilate did to Jesus. As Catholic Daughters, let's stop and turn it around by saying, how can I help others and what can we say to each other positively. I am reading the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. This book opens up a lot of questions about who Jesus is and asks what we know about Jesus. As we go through these 40 days of penance and fasting, how can we relate it to Jesus' life? So during this Lenten season, let us think about the things that Jesus did for us during his life as we come up to his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Let's make every effort this Lenten

season to adopt the practices we learned in our youth. Let us take part in the Holy Week services as much as our busy schedules will allow, remembering what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ sacrificed for us all, to joyfully celebrating his resurrection this coming Easter Sunday. A blessed Easter season to you all. Sincerely, District Deputy Terri Dynek.

Letter from State Regent Darlene Moritz: Greetings, Catholic Daughters of Iowa. The 2015 Fall Workshops are now history. We enjoyed being with many CDA members from around the state and we missed some. Our report cards (evaluations) made us smile and I'd like to share some comments with you: (1) Learned a lot about how to plan for new membership and for fundraisers. (2) I now understand how this organization works! (3) Learned a little more about the Circle of Love. (4) To be reminded to look at the Bylaws. (5) Learned some things about financial review; met new people; heard new ideas. These are some of the responses we received and we thank you for sharing your thoughts. Now as you take the information back to your courts and the District Deputies meet with courts, the communication line gets just a bit tighter. We never want members out in left field! We strive to be right on track. As 1st Vice-Regent Jan Grundmeyer mentioned at the workshops, new memberships are coming in and our goal is to increase by 50% by next June 2016 as well as gain a new court in each Diocese. We all have a lot to do. Membership is vital to the growth of this organization. And why wouldn't we want to share what we have? Our Circle of Love program allows members to chime in on areas that they really have an interest in. We are again planning a bus trip in July 2016 to the National CDA Convention in Pittsburgh, PA. Betty Pratt is organizing this bus for us. We are also inviting neighboring states to ride if they wish but Iowa members will have priority. Sincerely, State Regent Darlene Moritz.

Letter from The Voice Editor & Iowa CDA 1st Vice-Regent Jan Grundmeyer: I trust everyone enjoyed a beautiful autumn and is prepared for the season ahead. I am always amazed at the beauty God has created for us. Fall was very busy for the Catholic Daughters. Many members attended the four workshops held August through October around Iowa. It was wonderful to meet many of you and share ideas. Much information was imparted, ideas exchanged, and questions answered. Thank you to the host courts of Iowa City, Creston, Dyersville, and Emmetsburg for the great accommodations. State Officers Darlene Moritz and Jan Grundmeyer, along with our State Chairperson for Family Marilyn Kral, and CDA members from the area were fortunate to be able to attend a conference in Waterloo, Iowa entitled "Family Matters – Mission of Love in November." Congratulations to all the courts celebrating milestones of years in CDA – Court #504 Washington 95 years, Court #266 Earling 100 years, Court #330 Council Bluffs 95 years and Court #1945 Ankeny 50 years. Best Wishes as your courts continue to grow and serve Jesus through the Catholic Daughters. Sincerely, 1st Vice-Regent Jan Grundmeyer.

Letter from National Regent Shirley Seyfried: I am really excited about the number of new courts that are being instituted around the country. In the last issue of Share we featured several new courts in Texas. Louisiana instituted three new courts in the last month. There have been courts instituted in New York, California, New Mexico, Pennsylvania (Campus Court), and soon, Florida. Congratulations to all the new courts and new Catholic Daughters. I hope everyone is working very hard to institute five new courts in every state and to bring in many new members to our wonderful order. Our National Chaplain, Father Matthew Kuhn, has been quite ill and is seeing a specialist to determine cause of illness. He has been on medical leave from his parishes for two months. Please keep him in your prayers. Sincerely, National Regent Shirley Seyfried.

COURT #330 NEWS



CDA Court St. Anthony #330 officers & members who attended the 11:00 a.m. mass on Sunday, October 18, 2015 in honor of CDA Sunday include pictured left to right front row: Kay White, Jessica White, and Jan Roth. Middle row: Mary Alice Wickham, Linda Spencer, Marti Lynch, and Joan Von Tersch-Crampton. Back row: Mary Sue Wickham, Recording Secretary Sue Meidlinger, Mary Sealock, Patty McGinn, and Regent Angie Shea.



On Sunday, October 25, 2015, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Anthony #330 held its 95th anniversary celebration. The event was held from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Parish Social Hall. Those members honored for their years of dedicated service to Court St. Anthony #330 were Marcella Lee – 48 years; Mary Alice Wickham – 46 years; Mary Sealock – 20 years; Linda Spencer – 21 years; and Joan Gubbels – 23 years. Presenting the honorees with certificates were District Deputy Terri Dynek and Regent Angie Shea.

CDA MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – CHARLOTTE SPOTO

Submitted Article



Charlotte Spoto has been an active member of CDA Court #330 since 1998. Following her retirement in 1995, she and an English friend and co-worker named Tess Barnett decided they would join. Charlotte is “doubly related by marriage and blood” to other Court members: Jo Meade, Mary Rousch and Rose Spoto.

Charlotte attended the original Abraham Lincoln High School on 5th Street walking there each day. She worked after school in the Mercy Hospital Diet Kitchen providing special dietary meals. After high school she worked for the Council Bluffs Bus Transit system. Following employment at the Council Bluffs Savings Bank, she began her career with Mercy Hospital. Charlotte spent one year at Bergan Mercy in Omaha then transferred to Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs where she spent a total of 32 years doing office work in Payables and Payroll. She states that she “had good times at the old Mercy.” They parked their cars at Little Blessings Day Care and were bused to the hospital before the underground garage was built. There were Halloween parties, Christmas parties, skits, and roasts. She recalls one time when she was called up on stage and given a great big diamond ring as a prank. Back in the early years of her employment it was a family atmosphere. She had a lot of fun and Mercy was “like a second home.” She saw the construction of the new Mercy Hospital facilities and the transition to a strictly business workplace.

Charlotte is proud to be “100 proof Italian.” Although her mother was born in Louisiana, she was full Italian. The family comes from the town of Mussomeli, Italy on the island of Sicily. Charlotte has made several trips to Italy over the years. Two of the trips were with her friend Tess during which she spent a week in England followed by a week with her relatives in Mussomeli. She also went on a European tour with a priest from St. Francis Church. They flew to Ireland, proceeded to Paris and Rome, and enjoyed a cruise down the beautiful Rhine River of Germany. She noted the “huge statues in the Italian Churches and how they place many expensive gold necklaces on their Virgin Mary statues.” A Catholic Church was just ten paces from the front door of the house and was cared for by two maiden sisters.

The area including Avenues G, H, and I in Council Bluffs was known as “Little Italy” when Charlotte was growing up. Her mother did all the cooking of the wonderful Italian dishes. Families would spend time with their neighbors outside in the evenings talking under the trees while the children

played. She was very close friends with two sisters next door, Josephine and Angela Cash, active and longtime members of Court #330, recently deceased. During the 1940's these three young women would walk down to the old St. Francis Church for Novenas and then they would stop to have dinner on the way home. They were devoted to prayer from a young age. She was baptized, made her first communion and was confirmed at St. Francis. She attended there until it was torn down.

Charlotte has lived in the family home her entire life. The Spoto family included four brothers, three older and one younger. Sebastian was the oldest, then came Sam, Phillip and Joe. She was raised to stay inside and do "girl things" while her brothers were elsewhere. Because there were more boys in the family, they held claim to the second bedroom while Charlotte slept in the living room.

The house is a two bedroom, one story building. She laughingly "always dreamed of an upstairs." The entire backyard of the home was her father's garden, filled with vegetables and herbs. The children were forbidden to work in the garden, except when it was time to pick beans, peas or the like. Her father claimed that the kids "don't know plants from weeds" and the food from the garden was important for the family.

The family always had dogs. Charlotte carried on that tradition by providing a home for Lily, who was rescued from a neighbor's kennel when they moved away. She also has a Boxer puppy. She remembers the family having only one cat, and that one surprised them by "having her kittens in the bathroom hamper!"

Charlotte has lots of nieces and nephews. One of her nephews has been living with her for the past 10 years. Taking care of family is the bedrock of Charlotte's life. She was devoted to the care of her brother Sam throughout his battle with Lou Gehrig's disease. She also cared for her mother, her other brothers, and a very special sister-in-law named Joan. While taking care of her father she attended St. Patrick's Church. She has since attended St. Peter's Church in Council Bluffs.

Charlotte continues caring for others and is currently an active member of the Altar Society and the Mercy Guild. She is an avid reader who recycles all her books for those who otherwise wouldn't have them. She has knitted an afghan for nearly all the members of her family. Now she needlepoints twenty-five colorful coasters and delivers them to the four nursing homes in town on a rotating schedule. (She even gave a lovely coaster to this interviewer when I admired her workmanship.) She has many samples of her afghan and needlepoint skills throughout her home. However, on a wall in the living room hangs a painting on black velvet of Christ crucified which was not her handiwork, but that of a sister of her sister-in-law. It is quite striking and was given to her father as a birthday gift. It has hung there ever since. (See photo above.)

Charlotte has given freely of her time to her family and is a blessing to others as well. In typical Catholic Daughter fashion, she wonders why anyone would be interested in her life because "I haven't done anything." She said this as I stood next to her washing and drying dishes at our latest CDA Court #330 Salad Luncheon! It is undeniable that she has been helping others, and living in prayerful modesty, all her life. Thank you Charlotte for your active participation in our Court and your Christian example of family. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them:if one does acts of mercy with cheerfulness. Romans 12: 6,8

CDA STATE EVENTS – IOWA CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

April 3, 2016 – Divine Mercy Sunday

June 26, 2016 – Anna Baxter Day: Hosted by Court #1797 St. Francis Xavier Cabrini West Bend.

CDA NATIONAL EVENTS – NATIONAL CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

July 20 – 24, 2016: Catholic Daughters of the Americas 56th Biennial National Convention In Pittsburgh, PA. Start planning and saving now! The 2016 National Convention is just under a year away. Please mark your calendars, save the dates, and prepare for the faith, fellowship, and fun of the next convention to be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the week of July 18 – 24. Reserve your seat on the bus. The bus will plan to arrive in Pittsburgh on Monday, July 18, 2016 to allow members to attend workshops beginning on July 19, 2016.

Prayers of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

1. The Sign of the Cross:

2. Opening Prayers (optional): *You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us (Diary, 1319)*

3. The Our Father:

4. The Hail Mary:

5. The Apostles' Creed:

6. On the "Our Father" bead before each decade: *Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.*

7. On the "Hail Mary" bead of each decade: *For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

8. Repeat "Eternal Father" and "For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion": (number 6 & 7) for four more decades.

9. After 5 decades, the concluding doxology (Three times): *Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

10. Closing Prayer (optional): *Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.*

COURT #330 PHOTOS



OCTOBER 2015 NATIONAL LIFE CHAIN



NOVEMBER 2015 NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION



DECEMBER 2015 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Catholic Daughters Of The Americas
Court St. Anthony #330
511 Franklin Avenue
Council Bluffs, IA 51503-4516



Our Mission

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the principles of faith
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