



Court St. Anthony #330 Council Bluffs, Iowa Winter 2008-2009

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court Officers

Chaplain	Father Chuck Kottas
Regent	Jan Roth
Vice Regent	Dola Mehsling
Recording Secretary	Sue Thomas
Financial Secretary	Pam Ratigan
Treasurer	Mary Johnson



Newsletter Editor

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Winter Schedule of Events

December 8	NO Mass Entertainment: St. Peter's Social Hall Dessert meeting: Social Hall Bring a gift for the gift exchange (\$5-7)	6:00 pm 6:30 pm
January 12	Dinner meeting at Tish's Call Jan Roth by Jan. 7 for reservation	6:30 pm (323-1996)
February 9	Mass: St. Peter's Church Potluck dinner: St. Peter's Social Hall Meeting: St. Peter's Social Hall Sign up to sell raffle tickets and to hand out Lifesavers at Mass collections	5:15 pm 6:00 pm 6:30 pm



Member rosters are available: call Jan Roth at 323-1996.

Catholic Daughters
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 mankind.

**Regent Review:
Jan Roth**

Dear Members,

IT'S A WONDERFUL SEASON! As the holidays draw near, we have so many blessings. It's been a good season for our Catholic Daughters Court so far this year. The officers Dola, Pam, Mary, and Sue have worked very hard to get the rosters, membership lists, and budgets out to you. Dola is our only "seasoned" officer so it's been an ongoing work-in-progress for the rest of us.

As we worked on the budget, we noticed that it is evident we give many monetary gifts to worthwhile organizations. This is wonderful charitable work, yet in this article I would like to focus on the good deeds we do face-to-face.

The brunch for our 50-year plus members was heartwarming and personal for the honored guests. Sheila and Sue did such a wonderful job organizing that lovely ceremony. When Elaine and Jeanette took the gifts to those who were unable to attend, that was so enjoyable for them. "They were delightful" was Jeanette's comment. What a special ministry to visit them in their homes.

When Mariann and her group took the totes and duffel bags, and the baskets of personal items to the kids at Children's Square, that was again personal contact. What great gifts for those children who have nothing but plastic bags in which to carry their belongings. Thanks to all of you who gave the bags for them. Such a little effort from us and such a perfect gifts for them.

The memorial Mass for our deceased members was beautiful. We had four members this past year who died, and members of their families attended the Mass and lit candles for them, and then had a lovely dinner with us. Again, personal contact and what a joy to have them share a meal with us and visit.

Thanks to our founders of this wonderful Catholic Women's organization (Terry Dynek gave a great history of this at our meeting) and special thanks to our present members who make all these good works possible, charitable and private.

In Unity, Jan Roth



**National Chaplain's
Message**

As part of his message at the Patriotic Mass held during the national convention in Albuquerque, Rev. Msgr. Gerald J. Walsh included these inspiring thoughts to those women involved in Catholic Daughters: "We look forward with faith and courage. There is much to be done to

restore and maintain the moral order which guarantees freedom, but there is also hope. This hope lies in the hearts of well-intentioned women like you, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, who do not hesitate to proclaim your religion in the very title of your organization. Your title shouts to everyone that you are 'Catholic'...and this leaves no doubt as to your values and your ideals. Be proud of your title and be proud of your organization. Our nation and our world are in great need of 'Unity and Charity,' and the proclamation that you are 'Women Embracing the Gift of Humanity' allows no room for question as to who you are and what you stand for."

Birthday Celebrations

December 4 Betty Viola
December 8 Shirley Thomsen
December 9 Kris Jarecki
December 18 Eunice Ott
December 21 Irene Schlautman
December 23 Mary Johnson



January 4 Anita Ruffner
January 8 Jean Palensky
January 14 Mary Ellen Michalski
January 19 Jeanette Bowen
January 29 Dola Mehsling

February 15 Mary Martin
February 17 Josephine Goeser
February 21 Fr. Dan Kirby
February 25 Charlotte Snook

CDA Sunday

"We gladly accept membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and, through the presence of the spirit in our lives, dedicate ourselves to the work of this organization to foster unity and charity among all men and women through the love of God."

Catholic women all over the Americas recite these words as they are inducted into the Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization. The women take these words seriously as a promise, a commitment, even a life-long commitment for some. From their baptismal call of becoming "sharers in (the Church's) mission" to their Confirmation seal of the Holy Spirit which "marks (their) total belonging to Christ, (their) enrollment in his service for ever" to their promise at the court induction ceremony, Catholic Daughters live the life of an ambassador for Christ.

The Council Bluffs, Iowa, court of St. Anthony #330 serves as an inspiration to all Catholic women through the thirteen members who were recently recognized for their 50 plus years as members of Catholic Daughters.

Serving Christ through this organization is something these women hold dear. They are pleased to share their excitement for the work they have done for those who need assistance. Each of the thirteen has special experiences from her years in the court and each has grown spiritually from her membership.

Eunice Ott, a 90 year young-at-heart member of the St. Anthony court, is the member with the longest era of service, still going strong at 72 years as a Catholic Daughter. Her mother was a member so she joined after she graduated from high school. "It is the most wonderful organization for any young girl to grow up in," Ott believes.

At 103 years old, Margaret Mulvihill is the oldest member of the court. She delights visitors with tales of her years in the court. Her face lights up as she proclaims, "It is the most joyous organization I ever belonged to." Mulvihill has been a member for 54 years.

The Council Bluffs court held a special celebration for these role models at a Catholic Daughters Sunday brunch on October 19, 2008. Members of the court attended Mass together at Holy Family church and then gathered for a brunch and celebration. The honorees were given a special gift and the admiration of all the members present.

Women in the service of Christ do so selflessly and genuinely. These women exemplify that core value of Catholic Daughters through their involvement as officers, event chairs, charitable project leaders, and prayer life. For 65 year member Josephine Garafalo, as for most members, Catholic Daughters is not the only charitable work they do. Many have given of their time and talent over the years to organizations that serve the poor, the needy, the neglected, the abused. They "hope that young women will follow their example as they have followed that of those who served before them."

The work of the Catholic Daughters never goes away. There will always be the need for women to work through this organization to achieve their mission of "working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all."

Lifelong service to others is a calling. These wonderful women have been answering that call from God for many, many years. They have heard the call and have responded eagerly. Fifty-seven year court member Angela Cash (sister of Jo Garafalo) is quick to tell the story of how she came to answer that call to service to others through prayer, volunteer work, and more. "Once, when I was very ill, I decided that "if God wants me to do it, I will work to my dying day for God!" That is service with soul.

Our honorees:

Eunice Ott	November 22, 1936	72 years
Jo Garafalo	November 14, 1943	65 years
Angela Cash	April 30, 1951	57 years
Luana Paluka	October 11, 1953	55 years
Anita Ruffner	October 11, 1953	55 years
Betty Viola	October 11, 1953	55 years
Marie O'Neill	November 11, 1953	55 years
Darlene Morrow	October 31, 1954	54 years
Margaret Mulvihill	October 31, 1954	54 years
Mary Tedesco	October 31, 1954	54 years
Helen Dixon	November 6, 1955	53 years
Evelyn Seidler	November 6, 1955	53 years
Josephine Goeser	November 3, 1957	51 years



Court St. Anthony #330



**Court
Information**

Memorial Gift:

Our court received a \$100 gift from Joe and Cindy Connolly in memory of Ruth Scarpellino. The Connollys joined us for our Memorial Mass in November and at our court dinner.

Recently deceased members of Court St. Anthony #330:

Pray for the repose of the soul of Laura Lemire,
November 21, 2008.

**Charitable Projects:
Linda Spencer
Mary Ellen Sealock**

Phoenix House collection:

At our November meeting we collected items for the women and children who seek shelter at the Council Bluffs Phoenix House Domestic Violence Shelter. Thanks to all who helped.

Make A Difference Day project:

Our court once again sponsored a Make a Difference Day project to help the teens in crisis who spend time at our local Children's Square shelter. Court members donated new and used backpacks, suitcases and duffel bags for the teens to take their items home in. As in the past, we also gave a donation of \$200 toward the purchase of personal items and underwear and socks and other items that the teens will use to help them feel more at home there. A local 4H troop, the Garner Blue Jays, also contributed money to this project and purchased items to include in the baskets. HyVee and a local dentist, Dr. Dennis Higginbotham, also donated to this project.



Iowa News

State Convention:

The 2009 Iowa CDA Convention will be held April 17-19 at the Holiday Inn in Dubuque. Anyone who is interested in attending the convention should contact Jan Roth.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court St. Anthony #330
724 Redwood Drive
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

A blessed Christmas
to all our members.

