



# Court St. Anthony #330

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Summer 2011

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

## Court Officers

Regent	Sheila Graham
Vice Regent	Dola Mehsling
Recording Secretary	Carol Hollenbeck
Financial Secretary	Sue Thomas
Treasurer	Mariann Hilderbrand
Chaplain	Father Chuck Kottas

## Newsletter/Website Editor

Sheila Graham	286 High School
	Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503
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## Website

**www.cda330.org**

Special features: volunteer spotlight, newsletters, Woman of Strength Saint of the month, charitable projects, news and events and a fun photo gallery!

## Summer Schedule of Events

June 5	Priest Appreciation Day		
June 13	Mass:	St. Peter's church	5:15 pm
	Dinner:	St. Peter's Social Hall	6:00 pm
	Dinner Chairs:	Jo Meade and Rose Spoto	
	Project:	Summer Salad Luncheon	
June 26	Corpus Christi walk		
July 11	Mass:	St. Peter's church	5:15 pm
	Dinner:	St. Peter's Social Hall	6:00 pm
	Dinner Chairs:	Marcella Lee and Jean Palensky	
	Project:	Summer Salad Luncheon	
July 13	Summer Salad Luncheon		11:00 am—1:30 pm
August 9	Dinner:	Pizza King	6:00 pm
	Project:	2011-2012 schedule	



**Mission:** 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.

**Motto:** Unity and Charity

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

Regent Review:  
Sheila Graham

**Saint Margaret of  
Cortona**



WOMAN OF STRENGTH,  
COURAGE, CONVICTION  
& MISSION

PATRON SAINT OF  
SINGLE MOTHERS

INCORRUPT

FEAST DAY: May 16  
BORN: LAVIANO, ITALY IN 1247  
DIED: CORTONA, ITALY  
FEBRUARY 22, 1297  
CANONIZED: May 16, 1728

Dinner  
Committees

June 13 Meeting  
Chair: Jo Meade  
Chair: Rose Spoto

Maria Hurd  
Kris Jarecki  
Mary Ellen Michalski  
Mary Roush  
Charlotte Spoto  
Katie Thompson  
Mary Tedesco

July 11 Meeting  
Chair: Marcella Lee  
Chair: Jean Palensky

Carol Andress  
Josephine Goeser  
Annemarie Marsh  
Jan Roth  
Mary Alice Wickham  
Dolores Witters  
Marie O'Neill  
Darlene Morrow  
Irene Friesen

Birthday  
Celebrations



JUNE

6 Judy Lookabill  
10 Marcella Lee  
15 Evelyn Seidler  
19 Fr. Dave Fleming  
19 Joan Gubbels  
24 Rose Vergamini  
29 Luana Paluka  
29 Pam Ratigan

JULY

6 Fr. Chuck Kottas  
10 Amelia Andersen  
24 Connie Kriegler  
24 Marion Madden

AUGUST

2 Rose Spoto  
8 Pat Christensen  
9 Reva Leuck  
22 Katie Thompson  
24 Maria Hurd  
31 Marie O'Neill

Dear members,

This has been a spring for life here within our court: a focus on the quality and preciousness of all life through several activities we have participated in.

Many of you were active in the 40 Days for Life campaign, saying extra prayers and reading the emails from the national group.

Our court members also prayed rosaries for the unborn during the One Million Rosaries event in May.

Two of us attended a pro-life rally in Bayliss Park to show the support of a bill that would block late-term abortions in the state of Iowa.

These are marvelous examples of how strong the belief and faith of our members is that God created us in His likeness and to worship Him. Thank you all for your efforts in this regard.

I am very pleased to be able to serve the Iowa CDA as your State Treasurer. This will be a nice opportunity for our court to have a direct voice in state events and policies.

Be thinking about how you want to serve our court on our committees and chairing events! Committees will be appointed this summer.





### Remembering Eunice Ott

Eunice J. Ott peacefully passed into the arms of Jesus on March 31st, 2011. Eunice was our longest surviving member of Court St. Anthony, joining on November 22, 1936. Her dedication to the Catholic Daughters and her longstanding membership are wonderful examples for us to follow.

She was born on December 18, 1917 in Neola, Iowa to Mary and Leo Flynn. People meeting Eunice for the first time experienced her innate ability to listen, provide encouragement and share a smile or prayer.

People who knew her very well understood they were in the presence of someone very special. Her love and spirit drew you in. She married her husband Oliver in May of 1942. They were happily married for 65 years and raised three children providing examples of solid values and much unconditional love. World War II was a pivotal event which forever impacted their lives. Nothing was taken for granted and they truly appreciated all the gifts they had been given. Eunice worked for many years as the secretary at Blessed Sacrament School. Many lives were touched by her ability to make others feel at ease, young or old.



### Easter Visits

Members of our court visited and brought Easter greetings and small gifts to our homebound, reminding them that they are still a vital part of our court and remembered by the other members. The visitors enjoyed themselves as much as the members they shared time with. This is a wonderful way to keep in touch and share a blessed time of the year with each other. Thank you to those members who took time out to make visits: Jeanette Bowen, Linda Spencer, Sheila Graham, Elaine Nugent, Joan Goeser, Jan Roth, Jo Meade and Mariann Hilderbrand.

### Priest Appreciation Day: June 5

We honor all priests this day for their commitment to God and the Catholic Church. Thank you for answering the call to serve. You may never know the good that you do for those in your keeping. May God bless you!

- St. Patrick's: Fr. Dave Fleming
- St. Peter's: Fr. Chuck Kottas
- Queen of Apostles, Holy Family, and Carter Lake:
  - Fr. Dan Kirby
  - Fr. George Komo
  - Fr. Tom Coenen
  - Fr. Paul Koch
- Retired in CB:
  - Fr. Paul Monahan
  - Fr. Jim Kleffman
  - Fr. Fred Reischl

### No one but a priest . . .

can change bread and wine into the living Christ,

can offer the Sacrifice of the Mass, in which the same Jesus who surrendered Himself on Calvary now offers Himself in the Mass, through the hands of His priest,

can absolve sinners and restore them to friendship with the Creator whom they have offended.

Priests and the people must pray, in our day as never before, for the priests of the world. On their fidelity to Christ depends the salvation of more souls than we shall ever know, until eternity.

## Fund Raising Projects



### Salad Lunch: Grab a Plate and Join us!

We will hold our annual salad luncheon fund raiser on Wednesday, July 13 from 11 am to 1:30 pm in St. Peter's Social Hall. Please contact Linda Spencer about the salad and cookies you are going to bring and when/if you can help set up or work at the lunch. Raffle tickets will be \$1 each for some fun prizes. Plan to attend, bring a friend and enjoy!!!

### Lenten Raffle

Thank you to Jeanette Bowen for her tireless efforts making our Lenten raffle so successful! And to all those members who helped sell tickets. This has become a great tradition for our court.

Winners: Jesus and children statue won by Dola Mehsling (vice regent!)  
American flag and flagpole won by Ann Helton  
Nativity set won by Voni Andrews



## Community Projects

### Corpus Christi Walk

Mark your calendars for the Corpus Christi Walk on June 26. We will march behind our banner and want to have as many members join us as possible this year. We will start at Queen of Apostles Church at Noon and end at Holy Family Church for lunch. For those who do not choose to walk the entire route, Ollie the Trolley will be available. Shuttles will return you to your cars. Thanks to Jeanette Bowen for connecting us to this powerful event.

### Celebrate CB

We celebrated CB again this year handing out shirts, registering teams, and serving food at the Clean Sweep portion of this weeklong event. Thank you to the following members who helped:

Jean Palensky Carol Hollenbeck  
Sheila Graham Kris Jarecki

Linda Spencer  
and Elaine Nugent's good intention to serve!

## Charitable Projects

### Birthright Baby Shower

Birthright is a local organization that helps pregnant women choose life. Items needed are infant clothes up to 24 months, diapers and wipes, crib sheets and blankets, and maternity clothes. Members brought items to the May 9th meeting which were then delivered to Birthright in our name. Thank you to everyone who donated to this project.



### LifeSaver Project

We held our LifeSaver Project in April, taking donations at the parishes for Domestic Abuse prevention and care. Thank you to Pam Ratigan who coordinated the project and these members who also helped out: Charlotte Spoto, Maxine Gotto, Dola Mehsling, Joan Gubbels, Jeanette Bowen, Elaine Nugent, Kris Jarecki, Jan Roth, Carol Hollenbeck, Mary E Sealock, Mariann Hilderbrand and Marcella Lee. We were able to donate \$723.12 to our local Phoenix House and \$482.08 to the state DV program!!





**Marie O'Neill**

This month we shine the spotlight on a Catholic Daughter who has been a member of Court St. Anthony #330 since 1953. Her name is Marie O'Neill, and she is the mother of ten children; seven boys and three girls. Marie has twenty-two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. One of the O'Neill children, Tom, was ordained a priest in 1978 and served the Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, until he went home to be with the Lord in 2009. Marie's husband, Maurice passed away in 2008, having established a mortuary partnership business in Council Bluffs. Two of their sons have carried on in the family business. One of their daughters is principal of a Catholic School and her husband is principal of a Catholic High School in the state. Two other daughters are nurses--additional examples of professions in the service of others.

A Catholic education being important to the family, the O'Neill children attended St. Francis School. After that school was torn down in 1975, they attended St. Albert. Marie faithfully cheered at "many, many sporting events" during those years with students at St. Francis and St. Albert schools. Marie says, "You go to support your children."

She was a member of the Rosary Society and a craft group of fifteen women who met to make items for Oktoberfest at St. Peter's Parish. Her specialty and favorite things to make were the "stuffed animals." She was also one of six women who quilted on Wednesdays, making quilts for Oktoberfest, St. Albert auctions, babies and other people. She belonged to a bridge group for fifty years. Modestly, she mentioned that she had volunteered at Mercy Hospital gift shop for many years. She said meeting people was the best part of that experience, "I like to be around people."

Marie remembers that, when she joined CDA in the fifties, there would be over one hundred women at the St. Anthony Court meetings. She served in several officer positions over the years, but remembers best when she was treasurer. She attended "lots of CDA State Conventions" but never attended a National Convention. Her son Matt once wrote a poem for the CDA Education Contest and placed at the State Level. She said the theme of the poem was the changing of the Mass from Latin to English. Marie was smiling with pride recalling that touching poem and the picture of him in the newspaper.

Marie's husband Maurice founded the local Serra Club of Council Bluffs, which continues to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Originally the Council Bluffs Serra Club was a group of local businessmen; then Marie became an active member for many years, following the admission of women.

Marie still lives in the three bedroom family home that she and her husband established in 1949. There is a large room on the second floor that was the "boys' dormitory." Currently, the children and grandchildren "insist" upon celebrating holidays with Marie in her home. Although the house is increasingly crowded with people, they tell her that it is a "tradition they don't want to give up." They all pitch in and bring the meal, so they can be together in the family home. What a tribute that is to the parents who raised this wonderful family!

We honor Marie for her length of membership, her volunteer service, her devotion to the Church, and the Catholic Christian example she sets for her family and all of us.

By Carol Hollenbeck



## Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Court St. Anthony #330  
286 High School Avenue  
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503



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### Prayer and the Pope

Pope Benedict noted that prayer "is an inner attitude before being a series of practices or formulas; it is a manner of being in God's presence before the carrying out of acts of worship or speaking words. Prayer has its center and sinks its roots in the depth of the person.

In prayer human beings experience themselves as creatures in need of help, incapable of attaining the fulfillment of their existence or their hopes alone. In the experience of prayer we orient our very souls to that Mystery from which we look for the fulfillment of our deepest desires and help to overcome the poverty of our lives.

In looking to the Other, in directing ourselves 'beyond,' is found the essence of prayer, the experience of a reality that goes beyond the apparent and the contingent."

How he prays: "As far as the Pope is concerned, he too is a simple beggar before God -- even more than all other people. Naturally I always pray first and foremost to our Lord, with whom I am united simply by old acquaintance, so to speak. But I also invoke the saints."



### Court

### News/Events

#### Education Contest Awards

These students received state honors for their contest entries:

1st	Victoria Kragaskow	Art, Division II
1st	Ellie Helton	Computer Art, Division II
1st	Madison Dunning	Poetry, Division III
3rd	Zoe Trager	Essay, Division I
3rd	Eric Assman	Computer Art, Division III

Our Jean Palensky took 2nd place in Art and 3rd place in Poetry.



### State

### News/Events

#### State Convention

Our state convention was held April 29-May 1 at Coralville. Sheila Graham, Dola Mehsling, and Elaine Nugent attended to represent our court. Sheila was elected Treasurer for the Iowa State CDA court.



### National

### News/Events

You are not alone in your membership to Catholic Daughters: The Catholic Daughters of the Americas has nearly 85,000 members in 1,250 courts in the United States, Puerto Rico, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Guam, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands.