

2013

Jan., Feb., March



Catholic Daughter Court St. Charles #1791

# Catholic Daughter Happenings



## CDA Mission Statement

The purpose of the organization is to participate in the religious, charitable and educational Apostolate of the Church. Catholic Daughters of the Americas engages in creative and spiritual programs which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their special God-given talents in a meaningful way to positively influence the welfare of the church and all peoples throughout the world. 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 of all.

### Court St. Charles officers



**Regent**

Vicki Gathje  
224 Willow Court, St. Charles, MN 55972  
507-932-5173



**Vice Regent**

Marlys Hinckley  
19320 Hwy 74 SE, Chatfield, MN 55923  
507-867-4832



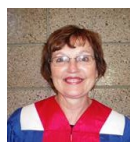
**Recording Secretary**

Marie Kvam  
700 Wabasha Ave., St. Charles, MN 55972  
507-932-3535



**Treasurer**

Maureen Doffing  
444 Whispering Hills,  
St. Charles, MN 55972  
507-932-4933



**Financial Secretary**

Fran Henry  
3910 Cty. Rd. 10 NE, St. Charles, MN 55972  
507-932-3681

**Chaplain:** Rev. Kurt P. Farrell

**District Deputy:** Bev Puterbaug

**Newsletter Editor:** Becky Storey Hunder



**CDA Motto: Unity and Charity**

## From Your Regent: Vicki Gathje

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Advent is the four week season before Christmas when Catholics and other Christians celebrate the first coming of Christ and anticipate His second coming.

Advent wreaths have their origins in the folk traditions of northern Europe, where in the deep of winter people lit candles on wheel-shaped bundles of evergreen. Both the evergreen and the circular shape symbolized on-going life. The candle light gave comfort during the darkest time of the year: as people looked forward to the longer days of spring.



Later, Eastern European Christians adopted this practice. By the sixteenth century, they were making Advent wreaths much as we know them today. An Advent wreath traditionally contains four candles—three purple and one rose. Purple dyes were so rare and costly that they were associated with royalty; the Roman Catholic Church has long used this color around Christmas and Easter to honor Jesus. The three purple candles in the Advent wreath symbolize Hope, Peace, and Love. These candles are lit on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of Advent. The rose candle, which symbolizes Joy, is usually lit on the third Sunday. Sometimes, a fifth candle is placed inside the Advent wreath. This candle is lit on Christmas Day and is white, the color associated with angels and the birth of Jesus.

It is easy to get caught up in all the hustle and bustle of "getting ready for Christmas." I've done it myself most years. We want everything to be perfect: the house, the tree, the baking, the gifts, the holiday meal(s), etc.; that we can lose sight of what Advent is all about: taking time to celebrate Jesus' birth and preparing for His return to Earth. It may seem cliché or obvious, but sometimes we need to be reminded that if Jesus were to come this year, He isn't going to look at our tree, our house, our meal, or our cookies. He's going to look at US. Are we ready? Is our soul perfect? Have we invested as much time preparing ourselves as we have spent on making our trees or gifts perfect?

My wish for everyone this Advent season is Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as symbolized in the Advent wreath. Enjoy your families and friends as you gather during the holidays.

*Merry Christmas. Vicki*

## Meet Your Officers...

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### **Recording Secretary: Marie Kvam**

I am Marie (Shea) Kvam; I am currently the recording secretary of CDA Court St Charles. I have lived in the St Charles area all my life. I grew up a dairy farm near Whitewater State Park. I am the oldest of seven children.

My husband Dave and I have been married for 31 years, and we have three grown children, Andrea, April and David. Andrea is employed at Mayo clinic, April works in the Physical Therapy department at Chatfield Nursing Home, and our son David is employed at Twin Valley Ag, along with my husband Dave.

I have run a Childcare business for 24 years, and have helped to raise 83 children in those years. I love my work immensely and find great satisfaction caring for my little ones and their families.

I love to be outdoors and I enjoy gardening and yard work (still a little farmer in me). I enjoy walking and riding my bike. I love spending time at the lake with my family.

My faith is my anchor for the rocky seas of life, being a Catholic Daughter provides a great way to be with other women of faith and to fill my need to help others.

My favorite quote: People will forget what you said, People will forget what you did, But people will never forget how you made them feel. ~ Maya Angelou

God's Peace to you, Marie



**Treasurer: Maureen Doffing**

My husband is Bob Van Doran and we have been married 11 years. This is our second marriage for both of us and we realize what a blessing we have in this second chance. We have five children between us. Three of our children (two daughters and one son) are married and live in the Chicago area. One daughter lives in Alaska and another daughter is currently living in New York City completing her schooling. We have five grandchildren - four boys and a girl.

Bob and I moved here to Saint Charles in 2002 when we needed an 'our' house and found a community we could embrace. Bob and I have both had corporate careers which we left behind for trucking. Bob drove truck for almost 12 years while I trucked with him for the last four years. Currently we are semi-retired. Bob is driving school bus afternoons (No. 8) and I am at Mike's Food Center.

I joined CDA after moving here, primarily for the camaraderie of women with whom I share the same faith. These relationships are enhanced by working together to give back to this community and the surrounding areas and having fun while doing it. It is delightful to be a part of this tremendous group of women.

*Maureen*



**Financial Secretary: Fran Henry**

Hello CDA sisters! I've been married to my wonderful husband, Roger, for 40 years. We have 2 daughters and 2 sons who range in ages from 31 to 37. Also, the lights of my life are our four grandchildren of which two are granddaughters ages 14 and 18 and two are grandsons ages 2 and 10. We live on a dairy farm north of Dover and are in a family dairy farm partnership with two of our children.

I enjoy cooking and baking for our family, especially for the holidays. I, also, enjoy attending my grandchildren's FFA and 4H functions as well as the sporting events they participate in. In the spring and summer, I spend time working in my vegetable and flower gardens. Come November, I'm an election judge for our township.

For the past 18 years, I have enjoyed being a Catholic Daughter member for Court St. Charles-meeting new friends, working at the different fundraisers, as well as helping people in need. Currently, I serve as your financial secretary.

Serving you in love-

Fran Henry



**Call to State Convention coming soon**

We can send up to 4 voting delegates to Owatonna April 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We can send more members and with the convention so close, this is a good opportunity for members who have never been to a convention to go. Think about it. Deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013.



**Mark Your Calendars!**

Bunco Meeting February 9<sup>th</sup> Come and learn how to pay this fun dice game.

Ash Wednesday February 13<sup>th</sup>

Lenten Retreat: Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Lenten Project: Second Harvest Food Shelf, Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> St. Charles Community Center

## From Your Pastor: Fr Kurt Farrell

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### From the Desk of Father Kurt...

One of my favorite movies is *The Nativity*, which is a realistic Hollywood production of the account of the birth of Christ. There is a scene in the movie where the children are being instructed in Sacred Scripture. The teacher reads to the children the story of Elijah's encounter with God. After not finding God in earth shattering events, Elijah finds God in silence. "After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave."

Often in our lives we expect God to speak to us in some impressive form as Elijah did in the story for the Old Testament. However, instead God prefers to speak to us in the silence of our hearts. Therefore, if our lives are too cluttered with noise, we are not going to be able to hear the Lord speaking to us. I have heard many of my fellow priests tell me that it was their decision to stop listening to the radio in their car, which allowed them to start hearing God calling them to the priesthood. I truly believe that if we want to be at peace with others and ourselves, we need to constantly be willing to listen to the voice of God speaking to us in our lives. For this to happen we need to make a constant effort to limit the unnecessary noise in our life, and create time and space for quiet and solitude. This can be very difficult at times due to our busy schedules, however if we make time for God we will find that his peace will remain with us in times of chaos.

As Christmas approaches let us quiet ourselves so that the Lord can speak to our hearts. The birth of Christ came in the silent of the night. If we expect Christ to be born in us we must also be willing to silent our worldly passions and allow Christ to be born in our poverty of spirit and silence of heart.

Fr. Kurt

## Meeting Recap Notes:

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### October 2012

- The cinnamon roll sale was fantastic on September 29th and 30<sup>th</sup>. It was our first try at selling them at Holy Redeemer. 100 rolls were sold out fast and another 50 could probably have gone, too. Plus, we sold out at our 10:00 mass! We, also, donated 4 doz. to the "mini-work camp" workers for their breakfast that morning.
- The court voted to move forward with developing our own local court website.
- The court voted to donate money to the following: the tri-parish Card Board Box City (\$50) and to the Linyi Children's Welfare Institute (\$50) to be used for art supplies. "It's really a treat for the kids to have colored crayons/pencils to use, plus it's educational and good for fine motor skills," according to Cassandra Petri. She purchased 50 glue sticks, 25 kids' scissors, 240 Crayola colored pencils, and 480 Crayola crayons. She will deliver the art supplies to the orphanage when she travels to China to adopt her next child.
- The paver project for the Bell Tower reached its goal of \$1,000 plus more! Through individual contributions, enough money was collected to "purchase" a paver. Thank you to everyone who donated. This was quite a feat to contact every member individually. Thank you, too, for all those members who spent time calling and following up with each member. This amount of money would not have been raised without each of us coming together for a combined cause. It was voted that the name engraved on the brick will be: **Catholic Daughters**. The money raised beyond the \$1,000 will be tallied and the total presented at the next meeting for discussion on how this money should be used.
- Thank you to all of our Rosary leaders at the Respect Life Masses: Nichole Paladie, Jan Hansgen, Joyce Clemens et al. and Denise Sackreiter.

## Meeting Recap Notes Continued

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### November 2012

- The Gummi Bear campaign was successful in raising over \$800 for Habitat for Humanities.
- Cinnamon roll weekend of Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> saw good "sales." This continues to be a good money-maker for us. As far as fundraisers go, this one is less labor intensive with good returns.
- The JCDA has been installed as the first junior court in MN-Court Kateri Tekakwitha. Watch for pictures in both the state newsletter and national Share magazine.
- Audit committee found the books to be in order and the transition from Marnie to Maureen through Vicki went well.
- Paver Update: We have offered the extra \$519 to the Rosary Society in the event they would like to purchase a paver. We are waiting to hear from them.
- October's Sock collection for Mary Jo Copeland's Caring and Sharing Hands yielded \$261 worth of new socks. (They were shipped on November 27<sup>th</sup>.)
- Rosary for our Deceased Members was recited along with learning the Devotion to The Devine Mercy, led by Marilyn McGuire.

### December 2012

- Seventy seven Christmas baskets and 7 boxes were filled and delivered. Thank you to everyone who donated food.
- The court's website continues to be developed. Our domain name is: [www.stcharlescatholicdaughters.org](http://www.stcharlescatholicdaughters.org)
- Secret Sister Program will be starting before our January meeting. Contact Marie Kvam for details or if you would like to participate (before January 1<sup>st</sup>).
- 49 Second-graders will receive their First Reconciliation on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you to the Rosary Society for donating the rosaries. Pam made gift bags & cards to hold them along with a prayer card and cross given by the tri-parishes.
- The Fall Luncheon was a success. We raised the most money since we started. The profit was over \$2,900! Thank you to everyone who worked and/or donated food. Thank you to Sandy and Bev for coordinating such a large project.
- The Rosary Society will accept our gift of \$519 and add their own funds to "purchase" a brick for their group for the Bell Tower/Debt Reduction project.
- **Dues are Due!** Renewal of the annual dues of \$26 will begin starting now for the 2013 year. Please, contact Fran Henry for payment or any officer for questions.

### CDA Education Contest 2013

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The 2013 contest will start in January. The two themes are: "Jesus is Reflected in Me" and "My Life is a Reflection of Good" Deadline is February 15th. Remember, the contest is open to all members as well as the Faith Formation Students. Mary Warmkagathje and Cristina Davidson received State awards last year!

## Thank You's

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Thank you to Rita Schultz for applying for a cash grant on our behalf! IBM has given us \$500 to support our mission. It is through Rita's continued volunteer service that she and we were recognized with this money. IBM gives Community Service grants that are requested from employees who have a record of active and on-going involvement with not-for-profit organizations and schools. [Rita and I needed to fill out some paperwork that involved the National level to make this happen; plus, we weren't guaranteed we would be awarded the money; so, that is why it was never mentioned at a meeting.] It is now up to the Court to decide what we would like to see done with the money. Do we want to support a charity or project that we couldn't before because of the cost? IBM does not restrict what we may use the money for other than: "to support (your) mission in a manner that reflects the highest standards of ethical conduct and in accordance with all laws, rules and regulations applicable to the Catholic Daughters of the Americas." Think of some possibilities for the use of this money. We will decide at a future meeting what to do with the money.



We would like to express our thanks to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, love, and support during our dad's illness and death. We are so grateful to have you in our lives and for what you have done for us. You all mean a great deal to us.

*Chris and Vicki*

## Up Coming Events

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### Cinnamon Roll Sundays

Our next Cinnamon Roll Sundays will be the weekends of January 19/20 and February 16/17. Cinnamon Rolls will be available to take home following the 5:00 pm Mass and served following the 10:00 am mass at St. Charles Borromeo. We are in need of bakers and frosters. Please, be open to help when called. Baking day is broken down into shifts and we are done by 1:00 pm. This is an easy and profitable fundraiser. The parishes seem to enjoy our treats.

### Community Card Parties

500 Card Parties on Sunday afternoons at the Senior Center in St. Charles begins on January 27th and goes until March 3rd. Volunteers to help make food for the lunch and to serve will be needed. Chair person for this event is Denise Sackreiter, please call her if you can help.



### January Collection:

.Baby Shower for Birthright-Rochester recipient. We will collect items for newborns. Please consider a donation of diapers, clothing or blankets.,



## Membership Questionnaire

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Our court has been slowly losing members over the past few years. In order to stay a viable court; we need to look at membership. Please, take a few minutes and fill out the following questionnaire and return it to one of the officers on or before January 12, 2013 (our next meeting.) Also, the questionnaire will have a space for any changes you'd like to see, things added or deleted. Each summer the officers meet to create the schedule of meetings and programs for the upcoming year. Typically, there are less than 5 members who are not officers that come to help with this. The officers are looking for direction and suggestions. We want to hear from more of the court about what interests you and what doesn't. What do you like and what would you like to see changed?

Please, be creative; think "outside the box." There is no right or wrong answer.

### Court St. Charles Membership Questionnaire

(this questionnaire is meant to help the officers create a court more "in tune" with our members)

**What can our Court do to attract new members?**

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**What can our Court do to maintain our current members?**

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**What can our Court do to energize and to involve our current members?**

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**What can our Court do/change to increase meeting attendance?**

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**Do you think our Court does "too many" projects?**

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**If yes, Give examples:**

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**Do you think our Court could do "more" projects?**

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**If yes, Give examples:**

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**Other Comments?**

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Please, return questionnaire at the January meeting, to an officer, or mail to: CDA, PO Box 343, St. Charles, MN 55972 before January 12, 2013. Thank you.

**Respect Life Sunday:**

Pro- Life Masses in all three parishes on Saturday, January 26<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. A rosary will be said prior to each Mass that weekend.



CDA St. Charles Email: [cda1791@yahoo.com](mailto:cda1791@yahoo.com)

CDA St. Charles Mailing Address: P.O. Box 343, St. Charles, MN 55972



**Becky Storey Hunder**

**818 Bluff Ave.**

**St. Charles, MN 55972**