

CDA Court #2690 Newsletter

September - October 2022

Editor, Donna Oates
oates@gvvc.com



"Unity and Charity"

St. Peter the Apostle Church, 202 Kronkosky, Boerne, TX 78006 www.cdacourt2690.org

Meetings are on the
second Tuesdays of the month
at 7:00 p.m.
Upon This Rock Campus,
St. Anthony Hall
Rosary at 6:30 p.m.

A Message from our Regent...

In these challenging times, I wanted to share some words from Pope John Paul II.

"It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal."

I feel like the summer has flown by and school has already started. It has been a long, dry summer. Hopefully soon we will receive some blessings from God in the form of rain. July was a fantastic month with sales of our cookbooks. We sold 149 books over the three weekends after mass. We have some incredible ladies in this court!

In August, we collected for Blessings In A Backpack (BIB). The local Boerne chapter started in 2013, providing food to school children in the BISD federal meal program on weekends during the school year. BIB must raise the funds to purchase the food provided. It costs approximately \$225 to support one child for the entire school year. The food is assembled here at St. Peter's on Thursday mornings beginning mid-September. Thanks to the generous parishioners of our church, we have raised \$6,694.60 this year.

Continued on Pg. 4.



Regent Dorothy Meuth

Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.

Mission: 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 for all.

CDA Officers June 2022 - May 2024 Court #2690

Regent

Dorothy Meuth
dmeuth@gvvc.com

Vice Regent

Judy Gleason
judygleason5777@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Janice Almeida
janicemaggie1@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Elvie Wild
dewild31@msn.com

Treasurer

Susan Krieg
skrieg@gmail.com

Chaplain

Deacon Marty Lee





Court #2690

Circle of Love Committees and Chairs
June 2022 - May 2024

Bereavement:	Sharon Mecke
Birthday Gifts for Orphans:	Sr. Kathleen Higgins
Blessings in a Backpack:	Arleen Skwara
CDA Rosary:	Mary Jo Perley
Circle of Love:	Barbara Vogt
Easter Egg Hunt:	Amber Bugge
Epiphany Party:	Dorothy Meuth
Father's Day:	Suzelle Yanes
Fish Fry:	Dorothy Meuth
Fundraising:	Debbie Simnacher
Funerals/Ceremonies:	TBD
Hospitality:	Alma Hilburn Kathy Hannig
Legislation:	Judy Gleason
Membership:	Elvie Wild
Memorial Cards:	Paula Hoepfner
Monthly Prayer Requests:	Nancy Roberts
Parish Festival:	Debbie Simnacher
Priest Appreciation:	Nancy Roberts Suzelle Yanes
Rosary Strands:	Lisa Reeh Debbie Simnacher
Scholarships:	Sydney Muenster
Senior Ministries and Area Nursing Homes:	Barbara Vogt
Spiritual Enhancement:	Nancy Roberts
Sunshine Lady:	Diane Beaton
Vetstrong:	Barbara Walz
Women's Shelter:	Alma Hilburn

Adjunct

Membership/Bunco:	Sandra Butler Marti De La Garza
Newsletter Editor:	Donna Oates
Website/Social Media:	Janice Almeida Susanne Henslee

2022

Daughter of the Year Alma Hilburn



Regent Dorothy Meuth and Alma Hilburn, Court #2690
Catholic Daughter of the Year 2022.
Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.

Alma has been involved in Catholic Daughters for twenty six years, having joined in Columbus, TX, in 1996 and transferring into our court here in Boerne when it was new. She is active in supporting the Kendall County Women's Shelter, Vetstrong, hospitality for CDA meetings, bereavement meals, the Epiphany Party, fish fry fundraiser dinners, and the poinsettia sale fundraiser.

Alma had an excellent role model in her mother, who was an active member of CDA for over 50 years, serving in many areas including Regent and District Deputy. Alma grew up knowing of the contributions the court made to the community.

Alma has led a life of service. Married to a petroleum engineer, she and her husband were transferred often and lived in Louisiana, Texas, Washington State, London, and finally, Scotland, where her two children were born. She taught home economics and English in Louisiana, worked in a nursery school with three-year-olds in Houston, and when she and her husband retired to Columbus, Alma served as a librarian for ten years. Her thirty-year marriage ended in 1999, and Alma eventually moved to Boerne in 2013 to be close to her daughter's family with two wonderful grandchildren. Her son in Houston has blessed her with a granddaughter, now six months old.

Alma is dedicated to St. Peter's Parish. She states, "I have been part of many Catholic parishes, but never one as welcoming and active as St. Peter the Apostle." When asked about a favorite quote or Bible verse, Alma reminds us that "St. Francis has given us a blueprint for a good life with "Make me a channel of your peace..." She finds herself invoking it frequently, and she says, "What awesome things we accomplish when we work together!"



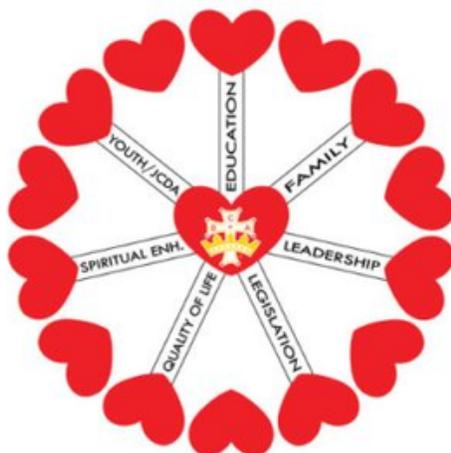
Past-Regent Barbara Vogt presents 2022 CDA Daughter of the Year, Alma Hilburn, with her awards. Photo courtesy of Barbara Vogt.

"May God prosper the work of our hands!"

- Fr. Hezekias Carnazzo, Institute of Catholic Culture

Circle of Love

By definition, a circle is a curved line with every point equal distance from the point to the center and bound together by a common interest. The seven point program of the "Circle of Love" is bound together by the common interest – love.



The seven points of the program, Leadership, Legislation, Quality of Life, Spiritual Enhancement, Youth/JCDA, Education, and Family, indicate the needs of the Church and community best served by the Catholic Daughters.



Prayer Requests. Please send your prayer requests to Nancy Roberts, cococat@gvyc.com. If you are interested in forming a rosary prayer group, let Nancy know. She will help you with the details.



Vetstrong. Contact Barbara Walz at barbwalz@gvyc.com or 210-355-3394 to donate. Items needed are small furniture, jewelry, bingo items, and all household items.



Blessings in a Backpack. CDA #2690 appealed to the generosity of St Peter the Apostle parishioners for monetary donations to Blessings in a Backpack (BIB) after the weekend Masses of Aug 13 & 14, 2022. BIB is a national non-profit with chapters in 44 states, including other cities in Texas. The local Boerne chapter started in 2013, providing food to school children in the BISD federal meal program on weekends during the school year. Children served by BIB have been shown to have improved attendance, behavior, reading skills, and test scores in school. BIB must raise the funds to purchase the food provided. It costs approximately \$225 to support one child for the entire school year. Our local chapter is directed by Kathy Bandujo, and there is a Facebook page for them. They also meet most every Thursday morning in St Peter's Activity Gym to assemble the bags of food for our BISD children.



Parish Festival. Debbie Simnacher is looking for volunteers to help with the Basket Extravaganza. Please contact Debbie at swisslstix@gmail.com. The Parish Festival 5K Run/Walk is scheduled for October 1, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.



Women's Shelter. Kendall County Women's Shelter provides residential and non-residential support to victims of domestic violence along with their children and pets. We collect personal hygiene items at our monthly meetings for use by shelter guests. We also collect and donate items to be sold at their thrift shop, Fabulous Finds, located on School Street. Their website, kcwstexas.org, has contact information, services provided, and the shelter wish list.



Memorial Cards. We sold 30 CDA Memorial Cards for the month of July and sent to state \$110.00. The August report will be submitted the first part of September as Paula will be out of town. Please pray for safe travels for her and her companions! The cards are available for purchase in the pastoral office, from Paula Hoepfner, or at the CDA meetings. The cards can be purchased for \$2.50 each (additional monies can be paid to State if you wish). They can be for living or deceased individuals. The names are sent to state each month, and they are prayed over for one year. What a blessing to someone who is living or for the deceased's family. Contact Paula Hoepfner, 832-646-3942, or crafty10@hotmail.com for more information.

A Message from our Regent (Continued from Pg. 1)

CDA will be decorating, serving, and taking tickets at the Fall Festival Spaghetti dinner on September 30, and we will have a booth on October 1 featuring yummy, homemade desserts.

October 1 and October 2 will also be our Respect For Life weekend, where we will collect baby items at the Masses to donate to the Hill Country Pregnancy Center.

October 16 will be CDA Day, where we will attend the 9:00 a.m. Mass together.

I challenge each of you to try and bring a new member to our meetings each month. We have a lot of projects going on, and more hands make the load lighter for everyone. Through CDA you are able to share your talents and gifts and work with other Catholic women who share faith and similar values.



Judy Broussard, Melissa Perez, and Patti Burns are welcomed at the July meeting by Regent Dorothy Meuth. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.

We Welcome New Members!

✠ Judy Broussard

Judy has been a parishioner at St. Peter's for three years. She has been married to J. E. Avrard for 42 years, and they have two sons, Jared and Jules. She is looking forward to the wedding of Jared to Angela Gonzales in November! Jared lives in Austin, Texas, and Jules is in Beaumont, Texas. Judy and her husband lived in Beaumont for three years but raised their children in Birmingham, Alabama. Judy, a retired school teacher, graduated from Texas A&M (whoop!), and her husband is a staunch Auburn Tigers fan!

✠ Patti Burns

Patti is married to Bill Burns, and they have three children and five grandchildren. Their son, John, is married to Brandi; John and Brandi have three sons and a daughter and live in Midland. Their son, Jackson, is married

to Cristina, and they have a baby girl. Patti and Bill are looking forward to their daughter Sarah's wedding to Jonathan Murphy on October 22 in Livingston, TX. Patti works for a promotional products company, Vernon Co., and her husband is an engineer. They moved here from Midland and have been parishioners for about eight months.

✠ Melissa Perez

Melissa has been in Boerne for two years and a member of St. Peter's for one. She is

married to David, and they have five children. Their son, David, Jr., is married to Allison, and they have one daughter. They just bought a house in Boerne, so Melissa and David's granddaughter will be close! Melissa and David have a grown daughter, Kristin.

Their son, Noah, is a senior at Champion High School, their daughter, Isabella, will be a freshman there, and their son, Trey, is in 4th grade. Melissa works at USAA and is excited to become involved in CDA. She appreciates all the varied opportunities to serve!



Regent Dorothy Meuth pledges new members at the July Meeting. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.

Happy, Happy...



Birthdays!

September

Cheryl Akin, 9-2	Marti De La Garza, 9-19
Eleanor Moring, 9-3	Rose Jaeger, 9-19
Patsy Schwab, 9-5	Alexine Deans, 9-23
Clare Smith, 9-5	Alma Hilburn, 9-23
Michelle Hobbs, 9-8	Mary Jo Perley, 9-23
Jeanette Belter, 9-11	Elzys Konz, 9-25

October

Vickie Nickel, 10-2	Mary Ann Hawn, 10-25
Julia Cortez, 10-6	Judy Hyde, 10-27
Vicki Harris, 10-11	Connie Meyer, 10-29
Jeannette Simnacher, 10-11	
Cheryl Kovalchik, 10-16	
Ginger Vlieger, 10-20	
Janice Almeida, 10-22	
Michelle Viro, 10-22	
Elvie Wild, 10-24	
Dana Gonyer, 10-25	

Anniversaries!



September

Gina and Joe Vina, 9-4
Nancy and Sam Roberts, 9-8
Sarah and Ron Amster, 9-12
Doe and Jim Morey, 9-20
Elzys and Bob Konz, 9-21
Maria Ann and Bill Wladika, 9-21
Enid and Juan Cazares, 9-22

October

Patsy and Mike Schwab, 10-14
Sharon and Richard Mecke, 10-20
Cheryl and Jim Akin, 10-29

Catholic Daughters of the Month, 2022

Jan: Susan Kreig

Feb: Elvie Wild

Mar: Susan Markworth

Apr: Sandra Butler

May: Teresa Castro

June: Kathy Tucci

July: To Be Announced

Aug: Paula Hoeppepner

Sept:

Oct:

Nov:

Dec:



August Daughter of the Month Paula Hoepfner.
Photo courtesy of Donna Oates.

CDA Featured Daughter: Arleen Skwara



Featured Daughter Arleen Skwara.
Photo courtesy of Renee Skwara.

I've been a parishioner of St. Peter's for about 37 years. My husband, Tony, and I have been married for 41 years as of August 8, 2022. We have four grown children, one daughter-in-law, and two precious grandchildren. Over the 37 years we have been at St. Peter's, I have served in various ministries such as faith formation, Bible studies, renew groups, family clusters, and family fellowship. More recently, CDA has been a wonderful place to come together with other women of the parish to serve the community. Blessings in a Backpack has been such a blessing to the children of BISD, and I have been part of this for a few years. I just love it!

Spiritual Enhancement - Pursuing Holiness...

Devotional

By CDA Daughter Nancy Roberts

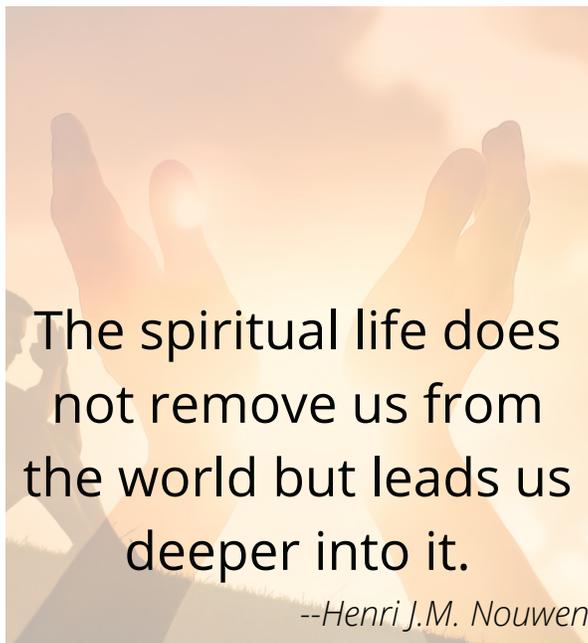
Pray Unceasingly

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, St. Paul urges Christians to pray without ceasing. But how can we ever do this with our busy lives? Mother Teresa gives us a hint. She said, "Listening is the beginning of prayer. A quiet heart that allows the mind to think of God, IS, in itself, a prayer."

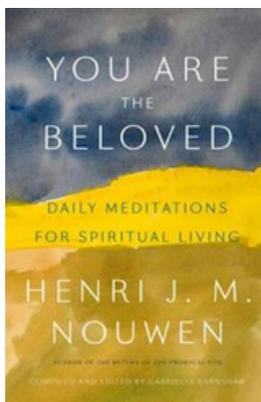
Here are some good tips for enriching our prayer life throughout the day:

1. When we wake up, think of God first. Offer the day to him, which includes not only the good, but the bad, too.
2. As we move through our day, say a short aspiration, such as the following: Jesus, I trust in You; Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us; Help my unbelief.
3. Recite common prayers.
4. Pray as we are on the go: In a car, walking, exercising. So, take God with you.
5. Sing songs of praise.
6. Place pictures of Jesus and our Blessed Mother in rooms in our homes.
7. End the day with a prayer or have a conversation with our Lord about our day.

May your days be filled with spiritual joy!



Catholic Book Suggestion



Henri J. M. Nouwen was a Dutch-born Catholic priest, professor, and pastor who gained international renown as the author of more than thirty books on the spiritual life, including such classics as *The Wounded Healer*, *The Inner Voice of Love*, and *The Return of the Prodigal Son*.

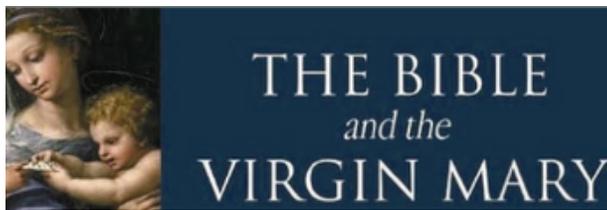
Nouwen's books have been translated into more than thirty languages and have sold upwards of seven million copies worldwide, resonating with people across

the religious, spiritual, cultural, and political spectrum. Since his death in 1996, ever increasing numbers of readers, writers, teachers, and seekers have been guided by his literary legacy.

Click [HERE](#) for a link to the book on Amazon.

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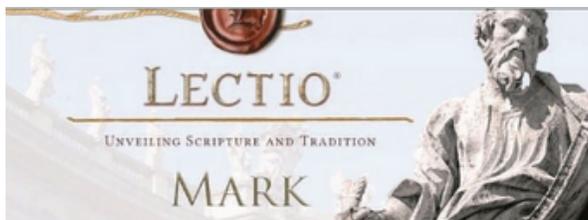
Upcoming Parish Bible Studies



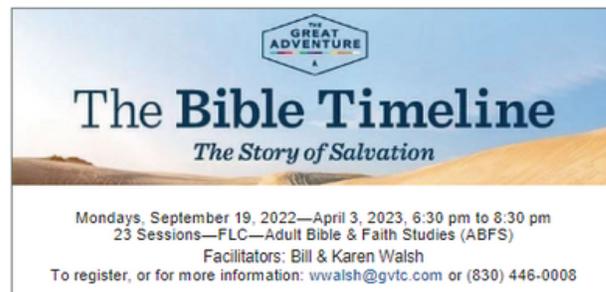
Tuesdays, September 6—December 6, 2022, 9:30 am to 11:30 am
12 Sessions—FLC—Adult Bible & Faith Studies (ABFS)
Facilitator: Cathy Ploszaj
To register, or for more information: cathyuconn83@gmail.com



Thursdays, September 8—November 17, 2022, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
11 Sessions—FLC—Adult Bible & Faith Studies (ABFS)
Facilitator: Cathy Ploszaj
To register, or for more information: cathyuconn83@gmail.com



Fridays, September 9—December 9, 2022, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
13 Sessions—FLC—Adult Bible & Faith Studies (ABFS)
Facilitators: Ed & Paula Hoepfner
To register, or for more information: crafty10@hotmail.com



Mondays, September 19, 2022—April 3, 2023, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
23 Sessions—FLC—Adult Bible & Faith Studies (ABFS)
Facilitators: Bill & Karen Walsh
To register, or for more information: wwalsh@gvtc.com or (830) 446-0008

Featured Saint: St. Beatrice da Silva Meneses



Born: 1424

Died: 1490

Beatified: 1926 by Pope Pius XI

Canonized: 1976 by Pope Paul VI

Feast Day: September 1

Beatrice was one of eleven children and was a lady-in-waiting to Isabel, Queen of Castile and León. Because of Beatrice's beauty, Isabel, in her jealousy, sentenced Beatrice to a prison cell. During this incarceration, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Beatrice in a vision and told her to begin a new order in Mary's honor.

Beatrice escaped and fled to the Dominican Second Order in Toledo, where she stayed for almost 40 years. In 1484, Beatrice and her companions founded the community of the Monastery of Santa Fe, which was dedicated to honoring the Immaculate Conception of Mary. They recited the Office of the Immaculate Conception daily and followed the precepts of the Cistercian Rule. Beatrice died in the monastery, and her remains are still venerated in the chapel there. Beatrice of Silva is the patron saint of prisoners.

Information on and image of St. Beatrice taken from St. Beatrice da Silva Meneses - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online. Click [HERE](#) for the full article.
www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php? saint_id=337

Mind, Body, and Spirit: Health for the Journey

3 John 1:2 (NAB): "Beloved, I hope you are in good health--may you thrive in all other ways as you do in the spirit."

Are you an empty nester or grandparent, feeling "out of the loop" in all the hustle and bustle of back-to-school advertisements and announcements? Do you still have children at home and look forward to the start of school, then feel guilty for wanting that routine? Or, did you dread watching your little ones run up to the school door on the first day and didn't know how you would cope? Whatever your situation, many families have adjustments to make as summer winds down, and these changes can be emotional and overwhelming. Here are some tips for meeting this stress head on!

- Get moving! Movement helps us decrease stress by releasing endorphins and supporting cardiovascular, immune, and digestive function. Try to fit in at least 2 1/2 hours of movement per week: Yoga, walking, bicycling, whatever you enjoy.
- Watch your nutritional intake. Not only does eating well help your body, some vitamins and minerals support your emotions, too. Make sure you get the right amount of healthy fats (like fish, nuts, avocado, and olive oil) as well as antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables.
- Don't skimp on sleep. When you sleep, your body and mind are working to flush out toxins, improve your memory, and positively impact your mood. To help in this work, avoid sugar and caffeine in the afternoon, keep digital devices away from your bedroom (or turn them off), and make sure you get the recommended seven to nine hours of sleep each night.
- Choose a hobby or an enjoyable activity and make time for it. Doing activities you enjoy can lower blood pressure and cortisol levels and may even reduce your waistline!
- Meditate. Meditation can help you reduce anxiety, chronic pain, high blood pressure, sleep problems, and various other ailments by helping your thoughts, and your body, slow down and be intentionally present in the moment. You will also develop skills for the next time you find your thoughts (and your heart!) racing. You can find guided meditations online; some of them are just a few minutes long.
- Ask for help. Find someone you can talk to who will help you gain perspective and handle stress in a positive way. A friend, therapist, counselor, trusted family member, or Stephen Minister are all people who can support you in your journey to an emotionally healthier you!

Information taken from "6 Wellness Tips for Handling Stress During the Fall" • A Subtle Revelry

Click [HERE](#) for the full article.



Some Exercise for Your Brain...

Word search submitted by Michelle Lee

Spirit

AltarCare

BibleStudy

Bread

Care

Family

Formation

Gathering

Grotto

Homebound

Humble

Invitation

LosMatachines

Man

Ministry

MissionCouncil

MomsMinistry

NAMI

Oblate

PreciousGift

RCIA

Utreya

RespectLife

Scouts

Time

Y	J	R	U	L	T	R	E	Y	A	F	F	W	J	X
L	S	E	N	I	H	C	A	T	A	M	S	O	L	H
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B	T	T	D	R	D	G	S	P	C	P	O	G	I	O
B	A	L	E	J	E	Z	W	T	N	O	L	L	P	U
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I	D	T	Y	C	E	A	L	T	A	R	C	A	R	E
B	C	O	P	L	I	L	F	F	N	J	H	F	G	M
C	P	R	E	C	I	O	U	S	G	I	F	T	M	R
N	V	E	R	W	A	G	N	I	R	E	H	T	A	G
C	A	I	N	V	I	T	A	T	I	O	N	R	T	R

What's coming up...

Watch the bulletin for these events and much more!

To read St. Peter's online bulletin, click [HERE](#).



Serving Our Community...

Food for the Journey

Several CDA members provided delicious food for the catechists in formation for the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The meals and snacks covered the third weekend of formation for our catechists, which was July 28-31.



Catholic Daughters supports Blessings in a Backpack, an organization that works with local schools to provide food when school is not in session for families that are food insecure. Daughters used backpacks to collect donations after all the weekend Masses on August 13-14.

And Food for the Home



Cookbook sales were a tremendous success! CDA Court #2690 members sold all 300 books. *Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.*



CDA Members supported Hope for Heroes, an organization that honors and supports first responders, and welcomed three new families into Hope for Heroes with breakfast tacos, coffee, and fellowship. Visit www.hopeforheroesboerne.com for more information. *Picture courtesy of Judy Gleason.*



L to R: Daughters Laura Balderamas, Suzelle Yanes, Arleen Skwara, Marti DeLaGarza. *Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.*



L to R: Daughters Kathy Tucci, Alexine Deans. *Photo courtesy of Dorothy Meuth.*

Together, We Remember and Pray



Elizabeth Rose Sitka

Mother of Peggy Pillar and Kathy Chopra



Darla Hilsmeier Rucka

Sister of Paula Beaton



Karen Graham

Mother-in-law of Sheila Dillard



Michael Turner

Son of Vicki Harris



Rayola McLaughlin

Past National Regent, Catholic Daughters of the Americas



LaNell Day

Parishioner



David Belter

Son of John and Jeanette Belter



Tamiko Perez

Mother-in-law of Elizabeth Perez



Elizabeth Bratton

Mother of Jeanna Moravits



Father Ruppert

1st State Clergy Consultant For Texas CDA



Bishop John Yanta

Parish News and Events--Our Community

St. Peter's Bereavement Group is in need of more volunteers.

Members of this ministry set up the food for the family of deceased parishioners during their funeral Mass, make tea and lemonade, pack leftover food for the family, and clean up. If you are interested, please contact Dorothy Meuth at dmeuth@gvyc.com



The Respect For Life ministry is restarting now after Covid and plans to restructure the ministry into a committee with as-needed meetings. They will address all life issues: the death penalty, euthanasia, and the elderly as well as abortion. If interested in being a part of Respect for Life, Contact Karen Eulberg at dkeulberg@gvyc.com

The Boerne Knights of Columbus Council 10940, along with other area councils, raised the \$40,000 needed to provide a new ultrasound machine for Boerne's Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center (HCPCC). Prenatal ultrasounds help new mothers with unplanned pregnancies see their growing baby as a precious life, and our HCPCC offers sonograms to them at no cost. Thank you for supporting this life-saving effort.



If you are part of the nursing home outreach, several homes have posted visitation regulations due to COVID -19. They are as follows:

Cibolo Creek. Testing at the Door. Test is good for seven days. Wear a N95 Mask. Staff are wearing N95s and face shields or goggles; they are tested once a week. Staff just received their second booster shot and are all up to date with vaccinations. There are currently no positive COVID cases at this time.

Care Choice. Check in and wear a mask. No testing needed.

Heritage Place. Visitors must wear a mask, check their temperature, and sign in when entering the building.

All slots are filled for Cookies for Care Choice through February of next year!!!!

Our next Senior Ministry activity will be gathering candy at the October CDA meeting for the nursing homes' Halloween parties.

CDA Beyond Boerne

State News

Catholic Daughters of the Americas State welcomes a new Court! We are blessed to serve alongside Servant Daughters of Corn Hill #2778, Monica Sherek, Regent. They are located in Jarrell, Texas.



National News

On the National Level, CDA's upcoming events include the following:

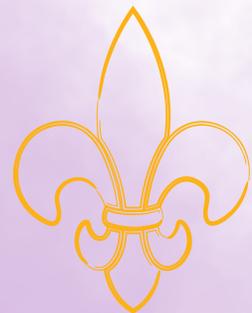
October 2: Respect Life Sunday

October 16: CDA Sunday

October 22: Make a Difference Day

October 30-November 5: White Ribbons Against Pornography (WRAP) Week

The National Convention was held July 20-23. New national board members were installed at the Installation Mass, and their service in their new roles officially began in August. The convention was a resounding success, and attendees participated in a Walk/Run for Life, enjoyed Keynote Speakers and a state dinner, and celebrated daily Masses. Many awards were conferred. The national CDA Woman of the Year is Jerry Lambrie from Lake Charles, Louisiana, and the next Biennial National Convention will be held in 2024 in Louisiana.



The Invitation

By Deacon Marty Lee

At the end of August our parish held their annual Ministry Fair. Before each Mass, the Cana Ballroom filled with conversation and laughter as the many ministries prepared to greet parishioners. And after Mass, the room came fully alive as the body of Christ. It was a beautiful experience to see sisters and brothers in Christ, meeting, laughing, and ministering to one another. Joy filled the room as the children led their parents through the tables. New friendships were made. Invitations were extended to all that they might share their gifts. An invitation to experience the Body of Christ fully alive.

As our summer turns to fall and families busy themselves with school and work, our lives transition, becoming filled with homework, sports, musicals, concerts, and family activities. In the midst of all this it is easy to forget the invitations and the calling that we receive from God. To hold on to the joy and to live as the Body of Christ takes real effort. And I would propose to you that it begins with an invitation. Simply inviting others into your life, into the life of Christ.

My hope and prayer for all of us, our families, for The Catholic Daughters and for our parish is that, no matter how busy our lives become, we remember times like the Ministry Fair, when we experienced the beauty of the Church fully alive. This can be every day if we focus on Christ and extend the invitation, if we invite others to live the mission of the Body of Christ.

Blessings,
Deacon Marty

