

COURT LEADERSHIP

+ Regent: Carol Hollenbeck (carolhollenbeck@ymail.com)
 + Vice Regent: Felicia Davidson (davidsonfelicia73@gmail.com)
 + Financial Secretary: Sharon Orton (ortonsharon130@gmail.com)
 + Treasurer: Jan Roth (janroth70@hotmail.com)
 + Recording Secretary: Angie Shea (angieshea12@gmail.com)
 + Court Chaplain: Fr. Tom Thakadipuram (pastor@corpuschristiia.com)
 + District Deputy: Terri Dynek (gmaterri13@gmail.com)
 + Newsletter: Sheila Graham/INTERact (sheilabarak@hotmail.com)

COURT INFORMATION

+ Website: cda330.org
 + Facebook: cda330
 + Mission: Catholic Daughters strive 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.

**FROM YOUR DISTRICT DEPUTY: TERRI DYNEK**

Thank you all for your prayers over the last year. The back surgery went well and I'm able to walk again and without the cane until the snow. It has been a hard year with the back issue and Covid-19 and being in the house. Miss being able to see my sisters in CDA.

I have been think of a way to make Covid relate to Christmas. This is what I came up with:

- C is for Christ the reason for the season.
- O for the oxen that carried Mary to the stable.
- V the virgin birth of Christ.
- I for the Inn that had no room.
- D devotion, continuous prayers.

Please keep Christ in the season. Continue your prayers for those who are suffering and recovering from Covid. Pray for all the medical staff, police and fire departments for their safety and health.

God bless you all and have a happy and safe holiday with your families.

Merry Christmas, Terri Dynek - District Deputy



Father in heaven,
 the day draws near
 when the glory
 of your Son will make
 radiant the night
 of the waiting world.
 Help us prepare for it.

**FROM YOUR REGENT: CAROL HOLLENBECK**

Greetings to all my CDA Sisters,



I moved into The West End of Council Bluffs in August 2009 becoming a parishioner at Queen of Apostles Church. One of the new friends I met there was court member Jeanette Bowen†. One day after Mass she encouraged me to join this wonderful group of Catholic women, Court St Anthony #330.

I had been Regent in a court at St Joseph parish in Anthon, Iowa way back in the late 70's!

The week before I was to be installed as a member, I got a call from another sweet lady from my Church by the name of Jan Roth. Jan proceeded to convince me that not only was membership in this court such a wonderful experience, but they really needed a Recording Secretary and as a retired teacher I could easily jump right in to an Officer Position!

During the past ten plus years it seems I have been Recording Secretary twice, Vice Regent once, and now Regent. I moved to Tennessee for two years to help my daughter and her family, but otherwise have always been an officer.

My recent conclusion is that the chickens have come home to roost! Because former Regent Jan Roth called me once again to offer HER services as Court Treasurer. I must say I appreciate her caring and devoted service as much as I did that of Jeanette Bowen†, who lead me into the flock. I am so grateful for both of those women and for all of the devout, generous and joyous members of this charitable organization.

I'd like to recognize and thank Layna Beer and her husband Craig for the tremendous work and support they have given us. We pray for their health and success as they relocate to Florida.

Our court has been through so many changes these past several years and now we are socially distanced from each other since last February. The fortitude, hard work, patience and prayers of this group of Catholic Women is an inspiration and a blessing to our Council Bluffs Community. I am proud to be among you.

Praying that your Advent Season will be filled with God's gifts and that we will be in each other's company in early Spring. Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us.

In Unity and Charity,
 Carol Hollenbeck - Regent



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Jan Roth
and
Layna Beer



FROM YOUR TREASURER: JAN ROTH

Thanks for opportunity to express myself on the wonderful merits of CDA 330. I joined about 13 years ago so I could get acquainted with ladies, as I had just moved from Omaha. First I served as Regent, then Treasurer, and now Treasurer again, I feel it's my responsibility to help this great organization.

I plan to send Christmas cards and pray for the well-being of all our members. I truly believe we will come out strong on the other side of this pandemic and continue with our meetings, fundraising, and our worthwhile charitable work so vital to the community.

Jan Roth – Treasurer / Past Regent

FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY: SHARON ORTON

Being an officer of the CDA St. Anthony's Court 330 is a blessing for me. I have been the Financial Secretary for over 3 years now.

The beautiful ladies I have met and became friends mean a lot to me. Since my family is back in Illinois these ladies have become my family. I cannot wait until we can meet in person again because of Covid.



I miss seeing and being with all of you. Not being able to go and say the Rosary at former members' funerals has been a loss for me. It is not the same as being there in person with all the others sister of the CDA court. I pray that we can start to meet soon.

Sharon Orton - Financial Secretary

FROM YOUR OUTGOING TREASURER: LAYNA BEER

Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you. ~Deuteronomy 31:8

As I pondered tonight, not knowing exactly what to say, I came across this Bible verse. Craig and I are about to embark on a new and challenging adventure. We absolutely could not do this without the Good Lord showing us the way.

It's kind of the same way I felt when Carol asked if I would be interested in joining the Catholic Daughters, then run for Treasurer. The unknown can be a little frightening! However, giving it to the Lord, to show me the way made it comforting.

I've met so many wonderful people being a part of Catholic Daughters! Friends that I will have for a lifetime! Thank you all so much for the kindness you have shown me during my time as treasurer. I have learned so much from all of you! I will still try to make it to meetings when I'm able to do so. Hopefully we'll all be together again soon. God Bless.

In Unity and Charity, Layna Beer - Former Treasurer

Blessing for a Christmas Tree

As we raise this tree,
we remember
the birth of Jesus and
the meaning of His life for us.

Bless this tree as a symbol
of our celebration of Jesus' birth
and our gratitude
for His sacrifice.

May the joy this tree brings
and the gifts we place
under it remind us of the many
gifts you have given us.

We ask your blessings upon our
loved ones, this day and always.
Amen.



"I wonder if the snow loves
the trees and fields, that it
kisses them so gently? And
then it covers them up snug,
you know, with a white quilt;
and perhaps it says, "Go to
sleep, darlings, till the
summer comes again."
~ Lewis Carroll

The angel said to them, Do not be afraid;
for behold, I proclaim to you good news
of great joy that will be for all the people.

For today in the city of David a savior has
been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace to those on whom his favor rests.

FROM YOUR VICE REGENT: FELICIA DAVIDSON



Greetings,
I just became Vice Regent this year and my name is Felicia Davidson. I have been with Catholic Daughters for 3 years now.

I hope we will be having meetings and be back soon. Hope everyone is in good health and please wear your mask too.

Felicia Davidson – Vice Regent

FROM YOUR RECORDING SECRETARY: ANGIE SHEA

It may sound strange to say this, but thanks to the pandemic my work schedule has changed to where I am able to spend more time at home. We social distance at work, and everywhere else, but in the office we're split into teams, so basically I work every-other-day.

I can definitely say my spiritual life has grown deeper as I am now able to attend a daily Mass, spend more time reading scripture and currently Dennis and I are doing a 33-day consecration to St. Joseph.

Being an officer in our CDA court helps with my spiritual formation as we all pray together and do good deeds for our community. Even though we are not meeting together, I pray for all of you. I miss our meetings!



I hope you all have a very blessed Christmas and keep the Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph upon your heart.

God Bless! Angie Shea – Recording Secretary / Past Regent



Father in heaven,
our hearts desire the
warmth of your love
and our minds are
searching for the light
of your Word.

Increase our longing
for Christ our Savior
and give us the
strength to grow
in love, that the
dawn of his coming
may find us rejoicing
in his presence and
welcoming the
light of His truth.

Moonless darkness
stands between.
Past, the Past,
no more be seen!
But the Bethlehem star
may lead me
To the sight of Him
Who freed me
From the self
that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord:
Thou art Holy;
Make me meek, Lord:
Thou wert lowly;
Now beginning,
and always,
Now begin,
on Christmas day.

~Gerard Manley Hopkins



CONTEMPLATING CHRISTMAS

Christmas is truly a beautiful time of the year and not simply because of the decorations, tree or resplendent lights. It is a time of profound beauty because of the spiritual mysteries it celebrates. Unfortunately we often lose sight of these spiritual truths and miss the whole meaning of Christmas.

One way to recover this sense of spiritual awe is to read the words of saints and popes on Christmas. It helps reorient the soul and provides ample material for meditation on the beautiful event that occurred over 2,000 years ago in a humble cave in Bethlehem.

Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in Him.

~St. Clare of Assisi

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas-time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in a heart full of love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, so warm with love for one another.

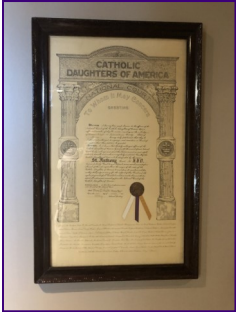
~St. Mother Teresa

Mankind is a great, an immense family. . . This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas.

~Pope John XXIII

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.

~Pope Benedict XVI



COURT CHARTER

The Court St. Anthony #330 Charter is now hanging in the hallway outside the sanctuary at St. Patrick. Many thanks to member Sheila Graham for touching up the frame on the 100 year old charter. The frame is 36" x 18". It is so nice to have our official charter displayed where we are meeting as a court!

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

December	
12/7/2017	Sharon Orton
12/10/2012	Rita Hughes
12/12/2016	Pat Cox
12/12/2016	Elaine Fenner
12/12/2011	Marti Lynch
12/12/2010	Mary Morrow
12/12/2011	Mary Sue Wickham
12/26/2003	Pat Christensen
12/23/2019	Barbara Jean Paulson
January	
1/1/2010	Anita Gaspers
1/13/2003	Sheila Graham
1/13/2003	Irene Schlautman
1/14/2002	Mariann Hilderbrand
1/14/2002	Dola Mehsling



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December	
3	Lucile Burke
9	Kris Jarecki
9	Angie Shea
21	Irene Schlautman
27	Carol Hollenbeck
January	
6	Anita Gaspers
12	Joan VonTersch-Wege
25	Dawn Cox
29	Dola Mehsling
29	Kay White

WHAT CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS IS . . .

- + one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas, formed through the Knights of Columbus in 1903
- + a spiritual charitable organization of women dedicated to the Catholic Church

WHO CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ARE . . .

- + 63,000 dues-paying members in 1,150 courts in 45 states across the country and in Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Kenya and Peru
- + women from all walks of life with a common faith goal

WHAT CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS DO . . .

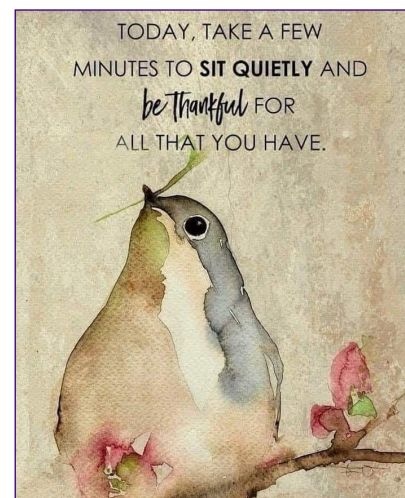
- + donate to charities, parishes, and Catholic schools
- + participate in community projects and events
- + plan youth projects, contests, and recognitions
- + take time for our own spiritual development
- + enjoy each other's company at meetings and events
- + work within and for our own parishes and communities

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS ORGANIZATION HAS A TWOFOLD PURPOSE: SPIRITUALITY AND SERVICE . . .

The integration of spirituality and service is the foundation of the Catholic Daughters. CDA helps women develop their spirituality and provides avenues of service to live out that spirituality. The CDA gives members a unique opportunity to share their faith with other Catholic women. Helping others through charitable acts in the spirit of Jesus Christ is the heart of our organization. "Spirituality and Service": the heart and soul foundation of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

HOW YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT US . . .

- + talk to any current members
- + visit our local court website: cda330.org
- + visit our local court Facebook page: facebook.com/cda330
- + visit the Iowa Catholic Daughters website: IowaCatholicDaughters.org



Share this newsletter with family, friends, and all active Catholic women of our parishes (18 years +) and invite them to join us! Have them contact Carol Hollenbeck carolhollenbeck@ymail.com.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MARY ALICE WICKHAM

Member since November 2, 1969

By Carol Hollenbeck, Web Manager



Mary Alice is currently the third longest serving member of Court St. Anthony #330 in Council Bluffs, Iowa. That is 51 years of action, support, service and prayers! What a Blessing she has been to our sisterhood. Currently the longest tenure in our court is Evelyn Seidler (11-6-1955) who supports us in prayer, dues and donations from Denton, Texas. In second position, since 11-2-1969, is Marcella Lee, who stays in touch from Bradenton, Florida. (Marcella Lee is pictured with Past Regent and current Recording Secretary Angie Shea elsewhere in this Newsletter.) We admire and respect the long term devotion of these three ladies.



The photo (above left) was taken on October 4, 2015 while Mary Alice did her part in that year's March for Life along Broadway with Catholic Daughter Linda Spencer. The photo on the right was taken on August 18, 2018 as she and member Judy Lookabill were working in the kitchen at St. Patrick, when our court hosted a State CDA Workshop in our region. Both photos are examples of Mary Alice lending a hand over these many years. I could just as easily have included a picture of her manning the dessert table, serving guests in line, or washing dishes at one of our annual Fundraiser Summer Luncheons at St. Peter's Social Hall. Always in action, ever involved and caring for all her Catholic Daughter friends.

Mary Alice grew up on a farm one mile south of Neola, Iowa. Her father was a farmer and a mechanic who worked on tractors, as well as cars. He also sold cream and milk. She was raised with three brothers and one sister, all very close in age. She attended St. Joseph School in Neola. When they went to Mass or school, Mary Alice and her sister would walk over to the convent and leave cream and a gallon of milk by the door. The nuns took this as payment for piano lessons. She plays piano to this day and learned the accordion along the way.

All through school she was the person who went throughout St. Joseph Catholic School, from Elementary all the way through High School recording the lunch count for the day. "So, everyone knew who I was." When she was a Senior she was voted as May Queen by the student body. She wore a borrowed white wedding gown and "felt honored that day." Those were the days before football and Prom Queens.

A lifetime of athletics for Mary Alice began in school when she played basketball. Her last two years in High School she assisted Sr. Dorothy who coached the JV basketball team. Later in her life she would go on to play AAU basketball with an Omaha league; traveling to many cities, such as Des Moines and Kansas City. Until recently she spent 12 years playing on the Golden Gems senior basketball team. She spent four years as a volunteer basketball coach for the YMCA teams that included students from CB Public and St. Albert schools.

Lots of Basketball experience, but that is not her only sport! She also played softball on church leagues and bowled for years in leagues around Council Bluffs.

After High School Mary Alice lived with an aunt in Council Bluffs, who lived near St. Peter and took in roomers. Then she lived with fourteen different girls in various apartments. Most of the women were “Neola girls” helping each other prior to marriage. Mary Alice worked for New York Life for a short time and then spent eleven years working for World Insurance, both in downtown Omaha. She was living with her cousin in an apartment when she met her husband-to-be.

Mary Alice met Jim Wickham after he returned from service in Korea. They were married in Neola by Fr. Shaw, “a very Irish priest,” in 1958. They recently celebrated their 62nd Anniversary. They are the parents of four grown children. We all know her oldest child Mary Sue, as she is a member of our Court. Their daughter Maureen lives in Oregon. Son Mark lives in Dallas and works in the Tech field. Their other son Kevin and his family, including grandson Kade (a Junior in High School,) live in Lincoln, NE. All four of the Wickham children attended Creighton University. Quite an accomplishment for Catholic parents!

Mary Alice has always been a volunteer. She was a 4-H Leader for several years, “teaching sewing among other things.” She volunteered one day a week at Holy Family and Queen of Apostles Schools and helped with their magazine drives. She also volunteered at St. Albert School. At St. Patrick she helped change the Altar linens and was a member of the Altar Society. She continues the practice of 1st Friday Adoration at St. Patrick. Most recently she is also calling for their Prayer Chain. Mary Alice was a Eucharistic Minister at Indian Hills Nursing Center in CB for years. She also took communion to the homebound after services there.

Mary Alice’s has several hobbies. One is gardening, her specialty being roses. She loves to sew, even on her antique treadle machine. She has been baking pies from scratch for large family gatherings since her younger days. She has shared that baking expertise with St. Patrick Parish for many years, helping with their pie fundraisers and sales.



**Mary Alice prays the Rosary with her daughter member Mary Sue,
In background Donna Collins & former member Donna Leick.**

Mary Alice “always wanted to belong to CDA because her mother was a longtime member in the Neola Court and she loved it.” So, when Helen Dixon asked her to attend, she was happy to do so. When she joined Court #330, in November of 1969, they were meeting in the original St. Patrick Church’s basement. “The annual dues were \$3.00.” She was in charge of the calling committee in those days before the Internet; a necessary and important job. When I asked Mary Alice what her fondest memory was of being a Catholic Daughter she replied, “The Mother/Daughter Breakfasts they used to have for Mother’s Day.” She attended them with her Daughter, Mother and Mother-in-law (also a CDA member.) Fifty-One years later her loyalty is steadfast.

Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. ~Matthew 10:8