

August 16, 2023
Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA)
Court Blessed Mother Teresa #2550

Regent Paula Foret called the meeting to order at OLPH's Parish Life Center at 5:09 pm. There was a quorum of officers and members present. The CDA Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and Prayer for Membership were recited. Member Bonnie Viator provided refreshments.

Items of correspondence were passed around: a) correspondence from the State Regent; b) State Awards for our court from the 2023 Convention; b) personal thank you notes from 2 students, who attended the Steubenville Conference/Retreat, for baked "sweets" the court made and donated which were sold in conjunction with their plate lunch fundraiser and for our monetary donation of \$500; c) cards of thanks from various organizations that the Court has helped; and d) information on several of our court projects.

Recording Secretary Bonnie Viator distributed copies of the Court's May Minutes, which were read silently by the members. Motion was made by Denise Mestayer and seconded by Pat Waguespack to approve the Minutes; motion carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer Barbara Babineaux presented the Treasurer's Report as follows: Bank balance as of July 31 was \$7,724.72; disbursements of \$234.78; and 3 outstanding checks totaling \$170.78. Balance of \$7,478.93 in the Court's checkbook as of July 31, 2023. Motion was made by Mary Reaux and seconded by Kathy Cox to accept the Treasurer's Report, which was unanimously approved.

Committee Reports:

Prayer Petitions List - Chair Kathy Cox circulated an updated Prayer List. Kathy requested members present to please check the list and report any possible deletions or additions after the meeting. Some additions were then requested orally. Also, updates were given as to ill members already on the list.

Rosary - Regent Paula gave an update on 3 rosaries recited at various funeral homes since the May meeting.

Rosary at the Grotto - Pro-Life rosaries were recited on June 3, July 8, and August 4. Several members cleaned the Grotto each month. Regent Paula encouraged members to attend the monthly Pro-Life rosary at the Grotto whenever possible.

Empathy - Regent Paula reported that since May Chair Betty Rogers sent 12 "birthday" cards. And 1 sympathy card was sent to member Shelly Hollier in memory of her father. At this time a Hail Mary was recited for Chair Betty Rogers for a successful treatment and healing from Lymphoma. Several other reports of ill friends and family members were noted.

Spirituality -

Chair Denise Mestayer reported on the success of the Court's first official "Prayer Breakfast" held on Saturday, July 29. The motto was "Taste and see that the Lord is good." - Psalm 34:8. Keynote Speaker was Fr. Garrett Savoie who spoke on the quest for holiness. Three speakers spoke on practical ways to infuse prayer into families' busy schedules. Many people attended!

Anne Minvielle reported on the passing of Fr. Mark Beard, pastor of St. Helena church in Amite, LA. Fr. Beard was known worldwide for his Homilies, many of which were posted on YouTube. Anne suggested that everyone listen to the last Homily he gave 2 days before his death. It is entitled "Fences" and stresses how we cannot "ride the fence" in our faith.

Old Unfinished Business:

- a) **Mother's Day Prayer Card Handout AND Coffee and Donuts** on Sunday, **May 13** in the Parish Life Center. Mothers appreciated the nice Prayer cards; we ran out of cards. Coffee and Donuts was poorly attended. Thank you to Orion Menard for donating the donut holes and to all CDA helpers.
- b) **Priests' Appreciation** was celebrated with a mass at Consolata Nursing Home on Thursday, **June**

- 8th. CDA members visited the religious after the mass. 8 priests and 1 nun were given \$25 each. Monetary gifts were also given to Fr. Savoie, Fr. Ofodum, and Deacon Durk Viator per the Budget.
- c) The Court's 1st official "Prayer Breakfast" - **See** on Page 1 under "**Spirituality**"

New Business:

Regent Paula reported an **Officers' Meeting** was held on July 13. Service/Activity plans were discussed for the upcoming year, as follows: 1) The "Clothing Drive" would be moved to November this year; and 2) As suggested by OLPH Administrative Assistant Peggy Tauzin, possibly a "Food Drive."

Regent Paula reported the Court's upcoming events:

- a) Annual Pro-Life Baby Bottle Campaign's kick-off dates are September 9/10 (Sat/Sun) for New Iberia's Unexpected Pregnancy Center and will run through Sept. 30/Oct. 1 (Sat/Sun). Volunteers will be needed to hand out baby bottles at the entrances to the church on Sept 9 and 10 only! Bonnie Viator will chair this project in conjunction with the Unexpected Pregnancy Center's chair members.
- b) September 10; "CCD Breakfast" - Regent Paula asked for member volunteers to help serve for this event at the request of Peggy Tauzin in the Parish Life Office.
- c) October 28 - November 4: Adding a service project for "WRAP" week. Discussion followed. Barbara Babineaux to chair.
- d) October 29; "Saints Fest" - The Court was asked again this year to help with this project. A chair person was requested by Regent Paula. Discussion followed.
- e) October ___?__: Possibly having a church parish clean-up day.
- f) March 10, 2024 is date set for Court's annual Shrimp Boil Fundraiser. Chair person Bonnie Viator advised that once again Shane Crochet will be taking on the task of boiling the shrimp for our fundraiser and the Court will be responsible for selling the tickets and collecting the ticket money. Bonnie passed on the fact that Shane is now retired and advised that he will probably be doing only 2 fundraisers per year. Bonnie thanked him on behalf of the Court for continuing to help with the Court's only annual fundraiser!

Regent Paula reminded us that Fr. Savoie will not be at OLPH for the months of October and November.

Member Anne Minvielle noted that she recently attended an OLPH Board meeting and advised that the church parish will not have a Wine and Cheese Pairing Event this year (2023).

Regent Paula advised that at the Officer's Meeting they composed a "proposed budget," of which copies were handed out to members along with a sheet titled "Proposed Budget Changes." Bonnie Viator, who had typed the proposed budget and proposed budget changes explained the itemized changes. Discussion followed. Motion was made by Suzette Menard and seconded by Denise Mestayer to approve the proposed budget. By **unanimous vote** the proposed budget is now **the Court's 2023 (Aug.) through 2024 (July) Annual Budget.**


Other Business:

Diocesan Eucharistic Rally - Thursday October 5th at the Cajundome. Regent Paula was contacted by CDA Court Regent Denise in Abbeville because their court was asked to donate for this cause. Paula advised that we were not contacted. Discussion followed. Since our court was not asked to donate it was decided we will not donate toward this cause.

The Court's next CDA meeting will be on September 11.

Closing Prayer was recited. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Note: At times throughout the meeting Regent Paula asked a question pertaining to CDA and the winner was "rewarded" with a 'gift bag.'


Recording Secretary, Bonnie D. Viator