

November 13, 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 5:45 pm. There was a quorum of officers and members present. The CDA Opening Prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance were recited. Members Denise Mestayer and Nellie Leger provided refreshments.

Regent Paula installed 2 new members in attendance: Susan Leleux and Susan Robinson (a returning member). They were then each given a CDA pin.

Some items of correspondence were passed around. Regent Paula asked the members to take a sheet of the Court's 2024 Meeting Dates for their benefit. Regent Paula noted that CDA National has proposed options for formal uniforms for all members and she went over the options available. She then advised that we must vote on the options, with the Court's winning option to be sent to National. She noted that the vote will be taken up at the end of tonight's meeting after members had time to think about the uniform options during the meeting.

Recording Secretary Bonnie Viator distributed copies of the Court's October Minutes, which were read silently by the members. Motion was made by Kathy Cox to approve the Minutes and seconded by Rosa Maynard. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

In lieu of Treasurer Barbara Babineaux's absence Regent Paula presented the Treasurer's Report as follows for the month of October: Checkbook balance as of Oct. 1st was \$7,346.37. Two checks were issued. Outstanding checks totaled \$269.70. Balance in the checkbook as of Oct. 31st was \$7,291.87. The last bank statement had an ending balance of \$7,636.66. Motion was made by Denise Mestayer and seconded by Rosa Maynard to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was approved.

Committee Reports:

Prayer Petitions List - Regent Paula noted that this item will be taken up later in the meeting under "New Business" since Chairman Kathy Cox has some possible changes to bring up before the members.

Rosary - No rosaries were recited at funeral homes since last month's meeting.

Pro-Life Rosary at the Grotto - The Pro-Life rosary was recited at the Grotto on Sat. morning, Nov. 4th. Only three members attended along with Ms. Lisa Nguyen. No new planting was done this fall due to the ongoing drought since the summer.

Empathy - Regent Paula reported that Betty R. sent 2 November "birthday" cards: Cheryl Lopez (3rd) and Sr. Josita Lopez (4th). Betty will be sending 3 December "birthday" cards: Pat Waguespack (16th), Sarah Gaspard (22nd), and Fay Ferry (27th).

Spirituality - Speaker for the month Denise Mestayer spoke about her great uncle, Auguste Robert "Nonco" Pelafigue, who is up for Beatification. In 2020 Bishop Deshotel of the Diocese of Lafayette opened the canonization of 3 people, with Auguste Pelafigue being one of them. He was granted Ecclesiastical Approbation by the Bishop on Sept. 1, 2020. Denise gave a "biography" of his life from the time he was born until the time of his death. The steps to being declared a saint is quite meticulous and all aspects of the person's life is taken into account. "Nonco" Pelafigue at the age of 21 had already dedicated himself to The Apostleship of Prayer, a League of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose purpose was to propagate the Catholic faith, to pray for sinners and faithful departed, and to do charitable works. During his whole life he was a most humble man who traveled on foot to visit the area people to invite them to prayer of the League. He lived his whole life dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pelafigue's work continues today due to the creation of the Auguste "Nonco" Pelafigue Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, to provide religious, educational, and charitable programs.

Old Unfinished Business:

Regent Paula reported that the **Saints Fest on Oct. 29th** with the CCD kids was very successful. She thanked those members who helped. She thanked those who donated snacks and drinks for the event, the "Iagnappe" to be used for the CCD classes on future Sundays.

WRAP Week [White Ribbons Against Pornography] Oct. 28 through Nov. 4 was announced at all masses the weekend of Oct. 28 and 29. CDA also had inserts placed in the church bulletins explaining WRAP week. Barbara Babineaux was thanked for making large white ribbons which were placed on the entrance doors to the church. Volunteer members also handed out small white ribbons after masses for parishioners to wear throughout that week to help educate the public about WRAP week.

The **Food Drive for St. Francis Diner** held Nov. 4/5 and 11/12 at all masses was once again a great success. Volunteer members handed out 350 bags with flyers attached. Jeri Mestayer composed the flyer for the court. Ross Fremin at Fremin's Foods was sent a "thank you" card for donating the bags. Approximately 200 bags were returned, which took 3 truckloads to deliver. St. Francis Diner was very appreciative to our court for putting on this food drive.

Member Bonnie Viator announced that more money had been collected in the last month for the **Baby Bottle Campaign**. The October meeting total was \$3,601.41; this month's (Nov.) Meeting AND Final Total was \$3,721.41.

New Business:

Prayer Petitions List - Chair Kathy Cox announced the following suggestions: For example, maintain a name on list for 6 months with no illness listed; begin a new list every January. Having been voted on with a show of hands it was unanimous that a **NEW** list would begin every **January**, with **NO** illness listed.

7 Pillars of Unity and Charity (La. State Diocesan project) - Time for our court to nominate and select a "local" worthy charity to submit to the Diocese for the **7 Pillars** project. Discussion was had and 9 local charities were noted. After discussion, by a vote of hands the Lydia Cancer Society was selected as our court's nomination for 7 Pillars, which will now be submitted to 1st State Vice Regent Sheila Moore.

CDA uniforms - Discussion as to National, State and Local court uniforms (doing away with wearing robes?). Votes were taken and the following passed: a) National officers - maintain National robes; b) State and Local court officers - white top and black pants with medallion; and c) Local court members - white top and black pants with medallion.

Winter Clothing Drive - Clothing to be collected before and after masses on Nov. 18-19 in front of the Life Center. At least 2 people should be present for every mass. Regent Paula asked for a chairman to organize, etc. Denise Mestayer volunteered to chair. For this drive, Disch-Declouet will be the recipient of the coats/blankets collected.

CDA Kid - Time for Diocese to select a new CDA Kid. As of tonight the court had no nominations and the deadline to enter a name was Nov. 10; so the time limit has expired. Regent Paula asked for a volunteer to chair this project for next year, preferably someone with school connections. Jeri Mestayer volunteered to chair this event in 2025.

12th Grade Scholarship Award (La. State project) - A \$1,000 scholarship given to a 12th grade student who meets qualifications. Regent Paula asked for a chairman. Jeri Mestayer volunteered to chair.

Other Business:

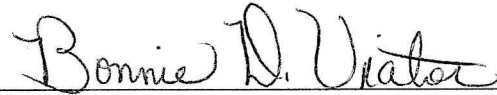
Collection of Wipes and Diapers for Disch-Declouet was previously re-scheduled for the January 2024 court meeting.

Court's Christmas Party - Will be held at Jane's Seafood on Wed., Dec. 13th at 6:00 PM. Dutch treat (everyone pays for their dinner).

Closing Prayer was recited.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded; all members present agreed.

Meeting was then **adjourned**.



Recording Secretary, Bonnie D. Viator