



Sisters in SERVICE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013

COURT SANTA SOPHIA #2520 · SPRING VALLEY, CALIFORNIA

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Make A Difference Day with Hunger 2 Help

by Carol Williams

Led by our Regent, Diana Garra, Ct. Santa Sophia decided to participate in Make a Difference Day by providing emergency meal packets to some of downtown San Diego's homeless people.

Gathering non-perishable snacks and stuffing them in plastic bags with a copy of "Prayer for Employment" was simple but meaningful; however the full impact of our work wasn't felt until Sunday morning Dec. 9th, when we delivered them directly to needy.

Melinda Bauers prearranged our distribution with a group of 14 year old boys who have been feeding the homeless in the same 2 spots for 110 consecutive Sundays. This group, "Hunger 2 Help" (H2H) consists of 7 young men, reined in by a father, Mike Johnson. Every week they

purchase (or get donated) enough eggs, cheese and tortillas to make 300 burritos. They cook, assemble, wrap & pack, and leave the Tierrasanta restaurant by 8 am.



Alec Johnson demonstrates "burrito building the H2H way" to Diana Garra and Carol Williams.



Packets put together by Ct. Santa Sophia were distributed by volunteers.

Diana, Melinda, Claire Lake, my 13-year old son, three of his friends and I helped them prepare the food, and followed the group downtown. Their enthusiasm was infectious! The hand-out spot was alive with courteous, grateful people of all ages, races, men and women. The "Burrito Boys" are friends with many, and any apprehension we might have felt, faded away, as food and other essentials were handed out, and many "God Bless You's" were exchanged. It was wonderful to be a part of Make a Difference Day, and inspiring to work along side the H2H kids!



Just recently, a couple of Catholic Daughter sisters and I were discussing over dinner how we are most blessed to be living in this time and place. This past year, 2012, has been a year of joys and sorrows for us all. We've experienced weddings of

our children, new opportunities and jobs, special events, births of children and grandchildren, deaths of loved ones, lengthy illness, adverse weather and much, much more. Throughout it all we have come together and provided a spirit of love, support, and giving to each other and those in

need. We have had immense opportunities this year to support God, our Church, and Community—all primary goals of the Catholic Daughters. We've volunteered to serve our parish priests, church events, Veterans, Knights of Columbus, the homeless,

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REGENT'S LETTER

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abused women, and supported parish organizations as well as contributed to many worthwhile charities. This has been a year of enlightening self discovery in the spiritual gifts I have received from my own involvement with the Catholic Daughters. We are truly blessed to share in many more opportunities to discover and utilize our gifts by volunteering this coming year.

God has provided his everlasting love and guidance every step of the way. Identifying and understanding his love for us and how we can use His gift is our goal for the New Year. An excerpt from *The Word Among Us* helps to guide us along that path: "Lord, I give this year to you. Give me a focus for 2013. He may bring a Scripture verse to mind or impress a word on your heart like grace,

boldness, patience, or peace." Write that word down someplace where you can find it, and revisit it over the coming months. As you walk through the year, watch how this word applies to more and more of your life. Then, this time next year, look back and see how your understanding of the word has grown—and how you have grown, too. You are becoming a child of God—all because his power is working in you! Jesus, I welcome your work in me this coming year. I want this year to be a time of growth in my journey with you." May we have a Blessed and faith-filled 2013.

In Unity and Charity,
Diana Garra

Celebrating Christmas with El Nido

by Bonni Esquibel



L-R: Diana Garra, Bonni Esquibel, Mary Wade, Rita Rodriguez, Chris Murphy, Cora Lawson, Anne Riemann, Marie Mixon

On December 11th of 2012, Catholic Daughters celebrated a Christmas dinner with the women and children who are part of the El Nido program. CDA, led by Diana Garra along with Chris Murphy, Marie Mixon, Carol Williams, Mary Wade, Cora Lawson, Anne Riemann and Bonni Esquibel prepared a delicious meal with dessert. CDA and Santa Sophia parishioner, Rita Rodriguez set-up the food, served and cleaned up.

Not only did we celebrate the Christmas season with the six families but we also had the opportunity to meet the family that Santa Sophia Church sponsors. The young lady and her three children have almost completed the program. We also joined in the singing of Christmas carols and watch as Santa Claus made his entrance to the delight of children. The evening was fantastic—a big thank you to Sister Margaret for inviting us!

Sweet Treats for Veterans

by Melissa Hiatt



On November 12, 2012 Ct. Santa Sophia, armed with bags-full of cookies, took the San Diego Trolley Orange Line downtown to the Veteran's Day Parade. Their mission: to distribute all their cookies to veterans participating in the parade.

CDA members canvassed the parade staging area, passing out cookies and thanking veterans and service members positioned in lines, sitting in cars, trolleys, floats, and on motorcycles. (We even ran into a past regent from Ct. Teresa of Avila on a motorcycle!)

After the parade, we received a gracious note from a parade participant and parishioner from Santa Sophia that said, "It is great to see that this organization is instilling patriotism, service and love for God and country into their young ones. It put a smile on everyone's face and shows signs of hope that this country is still strong at the core."

Thank you to all who baked cookies, "bagged and tagged," and distributed the cookies at the parade. This is a wonderful tradition that we are happy to continue.



Top: Knights serving up a great turkey dinner. Center: A full house—and the guests kept coming. Bottom: CDA set up a beautiful cookie table with plenty of cookies to choose from!

KofC and CDA team up for a Festive Turkey Dinner

by Georgene Kruzal

Earlier in the day Catholic Daughters baked varieties of dozens of bite-sized cookies while the Knights of Columbus toiled to cook a grand turkey dinner. The parish hall was set to serve 100 guests—a normal count for a parish dinner—but the Catholic Daughter cookie tables seemed laden to serve many more. When the “Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols” service ended, attendees filed into the parking lot, entered the parish hall and started to queue up in the buffet line. And they came, and they came. It didn’t take long for the CDA and KofC members to realize that we were soon to feed a group greater than 200! Tables and chairs appeared out of nowhere amidst smiles and laughter, in the kind of hodge-podge that smacks of a great surprise. As our guests chatted in the food line or carried their dinner trays to tables there was a great buzz of excitement and Christmas cheer.

As with all meals where Christ is in our midst, when the last person was served we discovered that all had their fill and there were still bits and pieces to be gathered up. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people of good will!



Join the 1903 Society

By joining the **1903 Society**, you enjoy the prestige of knowing that you are helping to preserve and maintain our National Office in New York City. Plans start at \$15.85/month over the course of 10 years and you will be recognized with your name engraved on a plaque on our giving tree. Visit the national website, www.catholicdaughters.org for more information.

CDA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

\$500 for 8th graders from public or private schools entering the 9th grade in 2013.

\$3000 and \$1000 for CDA members or relatives of CDA members who completed undergraduate studies and are entering a graduate program.

Visit catholicdaughters.com/resources to download applications.



STATE AND NATIONAL NEWS

The **CDA California State Elections** will be held at our State Convention in May. If you would like to run for office, please fill out the appropriate forms with your qualifications.

There have been **roster changes to the California State Board**. Please see Release #40 in the releases of the CDA CA website at www.catholicdaughterscalifornia.org.

We currently have 85 pledges and 20 more are needed to reach our goal for the second year of the **1903 Society**

program. Please have your court consider being part of this opportunity to preserve and maintain our National Office.

The National CDA Board along with local courts will participate in the **40th Annual March for Life** in Washington DC on January 25th.

The **Education Contest** deadline for local courts is February 15. Courts must submit the 1st place entries to their state education chairman by March 15.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Carmen Bauer She was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and has one older sister. Her family moved to San Diego when she was 10 years old. Carmen went to Mt. Miguel High School. Following graduation, she attended Coleman College for computers. She was employed by Western Lumber Company in National City doing payroll and invoices on a big main frame computer.

Dennis Bauer came into her life by means of a blind date. They met in January, got engaged in April and married in October of 1971. The couple just celebrated their 41st anniversary. Their daughter, Josie was their first-born, and then 4 years later a son, Donald, was born. Carmen was a stay at home mom until Donald was in school. She then went to work for La Mesa/Spring Valley School District in their lunch program, working her way up into an office position, and recently retired 4 years ago.

Carmen is an avid quilter, takes a swim aerobics class 2x a week, does all means of stitching: knitting, crochet and cross stitch. She takes a quilt class through Adult Ed once a week also. On top of all that, she cares for her 6-month old grandson, Jack, while his parents work.

Carmen joined CDA because she was asked to join, and had time since she was retired. She felt it was a good thing to do because the CDA does wonderful work, and she believed when something was needed she could help out.

When asked what her favorite activity with CDA was, she responded enthusiastically, "The Mystery Quilt Workshop."

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

1/20 12:30pm
Annual Afternoon Tea
Prendergast Hall

1/24 7:00pm
General Meeting
Verhoeven Room

1/26 9:00am
Catholic Charities Baby Shower
349 Cedar Street, San Diego

1/26
Sweetheart's Dinner
POSTPONED

FEBRUARY

2/13
Ash Wednesday



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Mission Statement

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principal of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

Visit Court Santa Sophia's website at:

www.catholicdaughters.com

or the CDA National website at:

www.catholicdaughters.org

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