The leaves have fallen, the cold weather is here and the year is about to end. Where has the time gone? By the time you get this newsletter Advent well have started. How are you preparing for the birth of Christ? Are you doing Advent wreath, going to an Advent service at church, or do you have a special Advent calendar that you use for the coming of Christ. During this time of the year, we need to help others as much as we can. One of our most powerful ways is to pray. Let us pray for peace in the world, stop the pandemic, and for all of our CDA members and their families that are having health problems and going though some hard times during this time of the year. Lets all bring Christ back into Christmas.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER
Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us for the shining star and angel's song, for infant's cry in lowly manger.
We praise you for the word made flesh in a little Child.
We behold his glory, and are bathed in its radiance

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Louise Johnson, Regent

Message from the Newsletter Editor
Dear Ladies of Court Holy Family,

Even though our world is still dealing with Covid 19, our Court is at least back to having their meetings in person and we once again have been able to see each other's smiles and give hugs.

December is the month in which we anticipate the coming of Christ and begin the celebration of His birth. As Norman Vincent Peale has written,“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and, behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.” The First Sunday of the Advent Season is November 28, 2021. Advent prepares us both for Christ's birth and His second coming.

Christmas isn’t one day in our Church calendar, it is a whole season. It begins Christmas Eve and ends on January 8th with the Baptism of our Lord. The birth of Jesus Christ has been inspiring people for two thousand years and this Christmas, I hope you are inspired to embrace your faith with a new boldness.

I want to wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. Christmas is the time for faith to bring our families together. It is a glorious time of year with joy and good will. Let us try and make every day like Christmas. From my home and my family, I wish you and yours a very faith-filled Christmas.

God Bless You All! Evelyn Irving, Newsletter Editor
COURT NEWS

WAYS & MEANS
Chairman, Irene Meszler, reported that we have a bake sale scheduled right after Thanksgiving -- November 27 & 28. Don't forget to label your goodies (nuts, gluten, etc.) in case of allergies and please price them ahead of time. You can bring your baked goods to the church either at 3 p.m on Saturday or just bring them when you come to Mass. There will be no selling of crafts this time. Kathy Pullara and Christine Million are helping Irene and Eliana will be putting it on Facebook. Our next bake sale is set for the 1st weekend in May 2022.

Christine Million reported on her follow-up to the ground work done by Sandy Cozad with Panda Express. It was decided to try for a date in December, so we will have time to advertise in the bulletin and prepare flyers for distribution. It will only be on one day and the Catholic Daughters will receive 20% of their profits for that day.

KING SOOPERS / CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM
Ladies, I have received the information on our participation in this fund raising program from July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021: Only 13 households participated, but we were able to gain $67.98 for our treasury! Can you imagine what we might receive if more than 13 families joined the program?

HOME VISITS TO MEMBERS
At the November court meeting, there was a discussion about our making home visits to our homebound members for the upcoming holidays. After much discussion, it was decided we would hold off right now and plan on making home visits for Easter.

CARD PARTY
At this time, our annual Card Party (except for 2021 because of Covid) is just in the planning stages. Our connection to the VFW was Tina Jenks, who died this year, so we don't even know where it could be scheduled. Please bring all your ideas to the December 4th court meeting!

NEW RULES REGARDING SCHEDULING EVENTS IN THE CHURCH
We have been contacted by Amanda Pettiette, Event Coordinator for St. Dominic, that due to the increased demand for spaces and resources, effective January 1, 2022, any space/event request that has not been submitted for approval a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the requested date, will be denied. As space and resources are becoming more and more scarce, she will do her best to accommodate requests, but last-minute 2021 requests (aka occurring within 2 weeks) will more than likely be denied. Our Regent, Louise Johnson, has been right on the ball and submitted our calendar of events at the beginning of the year.

THANK YOU!
My dear CDA Sisters, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the wonderful surprise during our CDA Sunday Potluck on October 15th. I was presented with a beautiful Proclamation and Member of Distinction Award by our wonderful Regent, Louise Johnson. It has been an honor to be a member of Court Holy Family since 1998 and look forward to many more years to serve CDA with you. Evelyn Irving
DIOCESAN NEWS

The Pope’s intention for October: Missionary Disciples -- We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

The Pope’s intention for November: People Who Suffer from Depression -- We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

Our new Bishop, Bishop James Golka, recently sent a letter to my family (the Irving family) in which he discussed his growing up in a large family and being one of ten children. “I will never forget the vision of my mother sitting in my room talking to Jesus in the same way she talked to a close friend. My mother taught me that I could talk to our friend and Savior and take Him any problem or trouble I had, but even more so share with Him my hopes, dreams and joys.” I have not met Bishop Golka, but I am very impressed with him and his ability to spiritually and prayerfully guide us forward in this troubling time. Evelyn Irving

UPCOMING COURT NEWS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES
We just received an urgent request for both the Catholic Daughters and the Knights of Columbus to volunteer in the classrooms of the 1st Sunday Religious Education Class that takes place each month. Currently, the 2nd adult in the classroom (Diocesan requirements) are the parents of the students. However, the 1st Sunday of each month, the parents are required to attend a Parent Empowerment Program meeting while their children are in class with their teachers. Do we have some members of CDA who can volunteer for that one hour each month to help a class? Classes start at 1 pm and are over at 2 pm. There are a maximum of 4 classes that would need someone to help.

CHRISTMAS PARTY
One of the most festive events of the Catholic Daughter calendar is, of course, our annual Christmas Party. Thank you Linda Burns for volunteering to chair this event. This is the time to invite your whole family to join us. Santa Claus will be there to pass out presents to the children in attendance around the Christmas Tree. The potluck dinner is always great and it is a wonderful way to “get in the spirit of the season.” It is set for Friday, December 10th from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the Narthex of St. Dominic’s. We are so fortunate to have Deacon Doug Marsh once again be the Master of Ceremonies.

FAMILY ROOM RE-DECORATING
Since we no longer have Mass in the Day Chapel during the week (it is now done in the big Church), the Day Chapel will now become a Family Room to be used by those with babies and children during Mass. The Catholic Daughters have been asked to do the decorating. Fran Reinhart, chairman of the Family Team for the Circle of Love, will contact Amanda Pettiette in the church office to get an idea of what is needed.
HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Wednesday, December 8th - Holy Day Masses are set from 8:00 am and 7:00 pm. The Vigil Mass is on December 7th at 7:00 pm.

Mary, Mother of God, is celebrated on January 1st. Mass for the Solemnity of Mary is at 8:00 am on New Year's Day.

NOVENA
St. Dominic will have a Novena from Sunday, December 12 through Monday, December 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE at St. Dominic is as follows:

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th –
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm and 12:00 Midnight

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th 9:00 am ONLY

Feast of the Holy Family, December 26th - 8:00 am and 10:00 am Masses

POTLUCK FOR CDA SUNDAY

In addition to attending Mass together to celebrate CDA Sunday, we had a wonderful potluck dinner. All members and their families were invited and what a great feast we had! In addition to eating ourselves silly, we also continued our tradition of handing out long-time member pins to celebrate their anniversary in CDA. For the year 2020, Amy Weaver, Theresia Finley and Dee Cain got a 15 year pin; Mary Ann Pudder & Kathy Pullara & Barbara Klausch got a 10 year pin; Joan Norman got a 40 year pin; Catherine Lahey got a 45 year pin; and Mary Ann Kiskadden got a 50 year pin. Sadly, we weren't able to give a 55 year pin to Joyce Hunke as she passed away in July 2020 nor were we able to give a 60 year pin to Eileen Quaney as she passed away November 16, 2020. Happily, for the year 2021, both Fran Bosso and Jean Kelly are receiving a 15 year pin.

Congratulations ladies and thank you so much for your many years of service to our Court and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.
IN MEMORIAM - Carole Stackonis

March 14, 1943 -- October 30, 2021

Carole Stackonis joined Catholic Daughters October 6, 2004 but resigned April 12, 2013 -- A member for 9 years. Sadly Carole died on October 30, 2021 at the age of 78 in Fort Collins, Colorado. She was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania and on January 27, 1962, she was married to Charles A. Stackonis They made their home in Widefield, Colorado where they raised their three children, Deborah, Michael, and Steven. She worked for Widefield School District, Widefield Parks and Recreation Department, and finally for Pikes Peak Hospice. She was a long time member of Holy Family and Saint Dominic's Catholic Church where she volunteered her time. She was known for her infectious humor and friendship to all. Chuck died several years ago and this picture is from the Holy Family Directory in 1995.

Carole was part of what I call the "fab five": Carole Stackonis, Mary Munoz, Marianna Austin, Lita Hoffmann and Fran Bosso. She will be greatly missed. Evelyn

IN MEMORIAM -- Tina Jenks

April 21, 1971 -- August 26, 2021

Tina Jenks became a member of Court Holy Family September 1, 2004 -- a member for 17 years! Tina was born in New Hampshire and later served in the U. S. Navy. Tina met and married Charlie Jenks in 1991 and had a full and happy life together for 30 years. She was proud to say she had been a resident of Colorado Springs for 45 years. They loved traveling, numerous motorcycle trips, jet skiing, gardening, long walks, and exploring Colorado. They loved their dogs Jassie and Tilley and got great pleasure from the cockatiels Tina raised from hatchlings. Tina loved singing, which she shared with their former parish, St. Mary's Cathedral. She was an usher for 20+ years and loved the Catholic Daughters and VFW. Tina was instrumental in getting our annual card parties scheduled at the VFW in Security and we really appreciate all her efforts for CDA. Tina was employed at School Districts 11 and 3 for a total of 19 years, and most recently, she worked at Mount Saint Francis as a caretaker. Because of her work schedule, she was not able to come to our monthly meetings, but always volunteered for every other event. The picture of Tina and Charlie is from the Holy Family Directory in 2010. There also was a Navy picture of Tina in the "We Salute Our Military" portion of the 2010 Directory.

Tina and I had an inside joke about my hugging Charlie and I loved her laugh. I will miss her. Evelyn
Greetings to my CO CDA sisters.

What a busy and special time of year for all of us. We began November celebrating the Blessings of all the saints of God and then praying for all the souls that have gone before us.

And now we are preparing for Thanksgiving and the opportunity this year to gather with family and friends in person. It is a special day for us all to be Thankful for the blessings in our life. It is time to look back over the last year to all the blessings that the Lord has given us. And to Thank Him for carrying us through the rough times many have suffered.

Advent is just about upon us and what a special time for us to spend extra time in prayer as we prepare for the Birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are so busy with decorating, shopping, wrapping gifts, baking, and making plans for Christmas but we need to make time to remember and prepare for the Reason for the Season. We need Jesus to be our priority.

Just as all of you have been busy, so has your National Board. Of course, there is all the usual business of the day-to-day business for our Catholic Daughters of the Americas, but we have been doing lots of work and planning for National Convention 2022. The ladies in Puerto Rico are so excited and doing all they can to make the convention special. CDA in Puerto Rico is 100 years old and they have never hosted a convention. Now is the time for them to shine and shine they will. The Executive Board has worked with them and visited the site of the convention and I know you will all be pleased. I hope that you are planning to join them and be a part of the of this convention. We all were so sad and disappointed the convention had to be cancelled last year for the first time in our history, and so we are ready to finally after 4 years looking forward to being together in fellowship to work on the business of our organization and enjoy the fun. Remember, you don’t need a passport! And the need for the travel ID driver’s license has been delayed until 2023 so no need for that either. There are many details to work out for a National Convention which we have done, and all the details will arrive right after the holidays. The hotel is large enough to hold us all so no need to reserve extra rooms you won’t need.

I pray for all my CDA sisters every day at mass and during the upcoming holidays will be adding extra prayers for you and your families that the Lord will give you peace and happiness as His Birthday gift to you. I will pray that you all stay healthy in these uncertain days as we take the necessary precautions but live our life in Faith Not Fear. The Lord is in control.

Have a very Blessed and Mary Christmas and God grant you many blessings in the New Year 2022.

Peace and Joy,
Susan Moné
First Vice National Regent

EXTRA NATIONAL NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

In the October state newsletter, our National Rep, Susan Mone’, was kind enough to praise our Colorado Fall: "Many years ago, at a retreat, a nun told us that when we see something beautiful like Colorado in the Fall, to imagine there being a gift tag that says, 'To you with love from God'. " After living here for a long time, I am one of those who just takes our beauty for granted. I won't do that again. Evelyn
STATE NEWS

At the 2021 Colorado State Convention, there was a vote that passed to add CANINE COMPANIONS as one of our State Charities. It was introduced by Carol Drury of Court St. Teresa #980 in Sterling as she is a dog trainer for dogs to assist those in need of help -- someone who is blind; someone who is deaf; and many other areas of help. This is something that Court Holy Family needs to discuss.

The State Board is currently making plans for the State Workshop at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Colorado Springs. It is scheduled for June 24-26, 2022. It will take place after the election of our new court officers that year. It is a great opportunity for all new, and existing, officers to learn their jobs, as well as connect with the members of the State Board.

Our next State Convention will be in Grand Junction, Colorado and is set for June 2-4, 2023. It is being hosted by Court Mount of the Holy Cross.

NATIONAL PROJECTS & CHARITIES - Covenant House

September is when our court normally makes a decision on what project or charity we will "go the extra mile" financially at each meeting. You decided to stay with The Covenant House. For those of you who are new, here is a summary of what makes this National Charity so special: Covenant House was founded 38 years ago with the mission to help homeless kids. Today, Covenant House is the largest privately-funded agency in the Americas providing food, shelter, immediate crisis care, and essential services to homeless, throwaway, and runaway kids. Due to the special donations at our meetings, in the Covid year, we only received $130 in donations (as our meetings were on Zoom and not in person); in October we received $65 in donations; and in November we received $83 in donations. We are doing fantastic for the Covenant House! Evelyn Irving, Chairman

PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for Tina Jenks, a 17 year member of Court Holy Family, who died August 27, 2021; Edna Escalante, a 44 year member of Court Holy Family, who died September 25, 2021; Francis Joseph (brother of Liz Delmonico) who died October 15, 2021; Harry Dierks (friend to so many of us) died October 20, 2021; Michael Strasner (son of Ann Strasner) died October 28, 2021; Carole Stackonis (a past Catholic Daughter) died October 31, 2021; and Johnny Barnes (husband of State Regent Barbara Barnes) died November 12, 2021 of Covid; and the souls of any of our family members and friends who might have died recently.

Please pray for a speedy recovery for Barbara & Bob Klausch; Dave Escalante (husband of Edna Escalante) Mary Ann (sister of Cathy Adams); Son of Elfreida Berkhoff (car accident); Mary Keefe; Irene & Jerry Meszler; Linda Marsh; Patty Casey; Ernie Champigny, husband of Joann Champigny; Nancy Mogensen; Colleen Reyes; Bernice & Stan McGuire; Pat Stearns; Barbara Barnes (our State Regent); Barb Thibault; Rose Teich (daughter of Fran Reinhart); David Reynolds (husband of Korlyn Reynolds); Christine Million; Gary Adams (husband of Cathy Adams); Ann Marie Stevens; Mary Ann Kiskadden; Sharon Grant; Conrad & Jean LaBranche (parents of Lori Richards); Bernice & Stan McGuire; and Steve Curtis (nephew of Evelyn Irving).

Please continue to keep in your prayers the homebound members of our court.
Our Next Meetings Are

Our meetings are on the 1st Saturday of the month in the Narthex of St. Dominic. Our December meeting will be at 1:00 pm on December 4th. Our January meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Saturday, January 8th (the first Saturday is New Year’s Day) and the February meeting is set for Saturday, February 5th. You are welcome to come early at 12:30 pm for good food and good fellowship. See you there!

Leadership

Each of you are LEADERS. All you need to do is develop the necessary qualities to be motivated, such as: (1) Welcome challenges -- (2) Have the flexibility to change -- (3) Have a sense of pride in your achievement -- and (4) Set goals for yourself that are stimulating and challenging! This is to encourage all of you to consider becoming an officer in this court. Election of new officers is next year in the May / June time frame. Pray about it. Evelyn Irving, State Leadership Chairman

Message From Our Chaplain, Fr. John Stearns

My Dear Catholic Daughters,

As we approach Christmas, our thoughts often turn to family and friends and the blessings that they are in our lives. My thoughts and prayers are filled with, not only my personal family, but also with my parish family. Certainly, no consideration of the St. Dominic parish family would be complete without thinking fondly of the Catholic Daughters and being grateful for the good work you all do in our parish. I want to thank Evelyn for giving me this opportunity to greet you all through this newsletter (award winning newsletter!!).

Louise and her officers have done a wonderful job this past year in bringing this CDA Court out of the pandemic. Their tireless efforts and commitment to the CDA have ensured the continuation of this court when so many other organizations have folded. Louise has been there through the good and difficult times, and I personally greatly appreciate her efforts.

Of course, leaders are only as good as those whom they lead, and I am so very grateful to each of you for your continued commitment as well. Your presence at parish events like the Feast Day, your WRAP campaign, funerals and so much more are not only noticed, but greatly appreciated. Your participation in parish life enriches not only the parish as a whole but also parishioners individually. Thank you for your continued great work.

It is my hope for each of you that you may enter fully into the beauty of the Advent and Christmas season. As we once again commemorate the birth of Jesus and welcome Him more deeply into our hearts, I pray that the worldly influences and commercialism will not disturb your peace but, rather, that the things which are eternal will occupy your thoughts and time. The peace of Christmas is so very comforting if we only take the time to allow God to speak to us in the quiet of our hearts.

May God continue to bless each of you abundantly and may the Peace of the Christ Child reign in your hearts and in your lives. Thank you for all you do! Merry Christmas!

Yours in Christ through Mary,
Fr. John
IN MEMORIAM -- Edna Escalante

June 1, 1935 -- September 25, 2021

Edna became a member of Court Holy Family #1794 on June 6, 1977 -- a member for 44 years! She was born in Mt. Clemens, MI and she lived most of her life in Colorado Springs. She traveled after marrying her husband Dave, who was in the Air Force, but always called Colorado Springs home. Edna and Dave had six children: Judith Escalante, Patricia Edson, David Escalante, Andrew Escalante, Peter Escalante and Paul Escalante -- and have 23 grandchildren and 30 great grandchildren! "Edna's life was rooted in her faith and love for God." Her passions were Jesus, family, geneology, and socializing with family and friends. I met Edna when she worked at Holy Family Church helping those in need. Edna was our Court Regent from 1975-1979. She has been residing at Pikes Peak Towers for many years, so she and Dave no longer attended St. Dominic's. This picture is from the 1986 Holy Family Directory. I recall her as a great leader and very spiritual and always smiling! I will miss receiving her emails. Evelyn

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome the new members since our last newsletter:

DANIELA I. L. JONES
DEBBIE LEWIS
DEBBIE JOHNSON
DEBBIE FERNICOLA
LIZ SALINAS
LORETTA LAPPEN

We are so happy to have you join the Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Court Holy Family!!

Website Information

Court Holy Family Website
Did you know that Court Holy Family is on the web as well as our State Board? Our court’s website: please go to the St. Dominic Catholic Church website at www.StDominicOnline.org. There is a link to the Catholic Daughters on this church website.

Colorado State Board Website
To learn more about what is going on at the state level, please visit: catholicdaughterscolorado.org. There is also a link to the National Board’s website on the Colorado state website or you can go directly to National at catholicdaughters.org.