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COURT SACRED HEARTS #864

DECEMBER 2006 NEWS

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Catholic Daughters of the Americas 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.

COURT SACRED HEARTS #864 will meet on **Saturday, December 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m.** in the **Sacred Hearts Pastoral Center**. Following the business meeting, members and guests will enjoy their Christmas Party and traditional Yankee Swap. Each member or guest should bring a wrapped gift (at least \$5.00). Also please remember to bring one or two items of non perishable food as a donation to the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS.....

We welcome our new members Claire Golden, Priscilla Delong and Linda Santos.

JANUARY STATE CONFERENCE The January MA State Conference will take place on Saturday, January 20, 2007 at the Danversport Yacht Club and will be hosted by Court Henry A. Sullivan #584. Cost is \$17.50 per person. Deadline for reservations is January 13th. Court officers and members are invited to attend.

A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN....

Have you submitted your order for the CDA cookbook? Cost per book is \$10.00. Won't you think about adding this one to your collection or maybe starting a cookbook collection for members of your families? Please contact Vi Wellen to place your order.

REMEMBER that you may bring a friend to a meeting... to join us in prayer – friendship - and works of charity.

Please continue to pray for our church, for Cardinal Archbishop Sean, Fr. Conole and Fr. Obayashi that God and the Holy Spirit will continue to guide them. Please pray for the merger of St. Patrick's Church in Groveland with Sacred Hearts Parish in Bradford.

Also please keep those who are ill, especially Janie Newman, Bruni Richard, Emily Fitzgerald, Rita Brassard, and Fr. Joseph in India, in your prayers.

Please know also of the recent passing of our former District Deputy Anne Barrett from Court Reading.

We are looking for IDEAS...

Do you have any suggestions or ideas to help make this a great year??? Please contact one of your officers and share your thoughts. We all need to continue working together as proud members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

GAMBIT

GAMBIT tickets are still available for sale at a cost of \$17.00 each. Monthly prize drawings take place from November until May. **GAMBIT** funds and supports the scholarships that are given by the MA State Court. Please buy your ticket and help invest in our youth.

PRAYER CORNER

Do you have a special or favorite prayer that you would like to share with us...Please send it to Maureen Trainor so that it can be shared with everyone.

Please join together and remember to **"TAKE TIME, TAKE THREE"**. Please pray three (3) Hail Mary's each day for the end of terrorism and the demise of all terrorist nations.



J. Jeyarathi, our adopted child from St. Joseph's Orphanage in India. We will continue to collect donations at each meeting to support our child and the work of Fr. Joseph at his orphanage. Please see Joan Joyal.

CDA HISTORY LESSON....

"Something Beautiful for God"

Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta, spoke to an audience of Catholic Daughters in October of 1972 in Washington, D.C. to mark National Catholic Daughters Day. She asked the CDA members to continue to "give to our brothers and sisters throughout the world as if once more Jesus had come into the world cold, hungry, and alone." Through annual donations to the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa's challenge and that of Bishop Sheen are being met, as we become "Catholic Daughters of the world."

May the blessings of this Season of Advent be with you as we prepare for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please allow me to share the following story with you.

True Meaning of Christmas

Just a week before Christmas I had a visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise at the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. "What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement . . .

"TEACH THE CHILDREN!" I was puzzled. What did he mean? He anticipated my question and with one quick movement brought forth a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood bewildered, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten. "Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **FIR TREE** and placed it before the mantle. "Teach the children that the pure green color of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, depicting the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven." He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant **STAR**. "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Savior for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise." He then reached into his bag and pulled out a **CANDLE**.

"Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of He who displaces the darkness."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a **WREATH** and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases. Love is one continuous round of affection." He then pulled from his bag an **ORNAMENT** of himself. "Teach the children that I, Santa Clause, symbolize the generosity and good will we feel during the month of December." He then brought out a **HOLLY LEAF**. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Savior. The red holly berries represent the blood shed by Him. Next he pulled from his bag a **GIFT** and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that he gave his begotten son." Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift. Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a **CANDY CANE** and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherds' crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back strayed sheep to the flock. The candy cane is the symbol that we are our brother's keeper." He reached in again and pulled out an **ANGEL**. "Teach the children that it was the angels that heralded in the glorious news of the Savior's birth. The angels sang Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men." Suddenly I heard a soft twinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a **BELL**. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring mankind to the fold. The bell symbolizes guidance and return. Santa looked back and was pleased. He looked back at me and I saw that the twinkle was back in his eyes. He said, "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the center, for I am but a humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship him, our **LORD, our GOD.**"

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you and yours and may you find Peace, Joy and Hope in the New Year.

Eileen, Maureen, Sheila, Joan and Vi

We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.

– Blessed Teresa of Calcutta