CDA Court Maria Galante #115

100th Anniversary Celebration

November 7, 2009
Mother Court of Texas

- Founded November 28, 1909
- First Grand Regent was Mrs. J. Theis
- Founded by 35 charter members

First Scrapbook Cover
Charter Members

- Miss Josephine Theis
- Mrs. A. Heichelheim
- Mrs. William McNamara
- Mrs. C.O. Daliet
- Miss Virginia Nagle
- Miss Georgia Maguire
- Mrs. John Brady
- Mrs. Joe Martin
- Miss Elizabeth Theis
- Miss Margaret Reilly
- Miss Edith Dreden
- Miss Mary Maguire
- Mrs. Charles Brunner
- Miss Mamie Hillebrand
- Miss Kate Robinson
- Miss Mary Sheldon
- Miss Helen Kelleher
- Miss Regina Smith

- Mrs. Charles Shurr
- Mrs. Horace Haldeman
- Miss Marie Martin
- Miss Josephine Maguire
- Miss Josephine Sheldon
- Miss Alma Thiele
- Miss Lillie Walsh
- Miss Josephine Robinson
- Mrs. William Blakeslee
- Miss Jane Cuneo
- Mrs. Lou Harris
- Miss Pauline Robinson
- Mrs. Joe Marken
- Miss Lorena Smith
- Miss Annie Martin
- Mrs. A.H. Robinson
- Father O'Keefe
Annual dues were $4.25
From 1909-1919 members referred to each other always as “Sisters”
At the April 1910 meeting, the possibility of taking in members over fifty years old (age) was mentioned, but was considered UNCONSTITUTIONAL. This was changed in 1920’s.
Members annually participated in the city’s Columbus Day Parade in their decorated autos and carriages.
Meeting Passwords were used and if you did not know the password you could not enter!
In 1917, the Texas State Court was formed.
In 1919-1924, the Court raised funds for Victory Bonds for WWI.
Catholic Daughters of America Add to List Of Philanthropies New Holy Cross Hospital

CDA LEADERS — Mrs. Joe H. Smith Jr. (holding pen) is chairman for a Valentine charity ball which the Catholic Daughters of America will give Feb. 14 as a benefit for building a new Holy Cross Hospital. Seated beside Mrs. Smith, the current grand regent of Court Maria Galante, is Miss Josephine Theis, first grand regent after the court’s organization. Miss Frances Burke (standing left) is financial chairman for CDA, and Mrs. Norman Schuelke is a charter member.

—(Neal Douglass Photo)
CONTRIBUTE TO NEW HOSPITAL—Court Maria Galante of the Catholic Daughters of America Tuesday night presented a check for $1,333.25 to the fund for building the Holy Cross Hospital here. The money was raised at the Valentine charity ball sponsored by the organization. Shown giving the proceeds to Father Francis R. Weber, CSC, pastor of Holy Cross Church and director of the hospital, is Mrs. Joe H. Smith Jr., grand regent for the local court. Others in the picture are, from left: Father William Lane, missionary priest and assistant to Father Weber; Miss Frances Burke, financial secretary of Court Maria Galante; Mrs. Allen C. Clark, treasurer of the Court; Father Joseph R. McAllister, Court chaplain; and Mrs. George Keenes, vice grand regent.—(Mears Photo)
1930-1950 Trivia

- Court Maria Galante helped raise funds for WWII Warbonds and donated care packages to families in war torn Europe.
- At the state convention in 1933 courts had to pay $100 seminary dues in order that the grand regent be able to vote as the court representative.
- Card parties were held as fundraisers at the KC Hall.
- Cost of Historian’s book was $2.25.
- Christmas baskets were annually given to needy families in the area.
- Ways and Means to raise money continued to hold dances at the Driskill Hotel. Tickets were $3.00 each.
- Ct. 115 started their long history of donating to the State Hospital in the 1950’s.
Theme Song for Ct. Maria Galante #115

(Words written by Merion Darwin—Dec. 1941)
(Sing to the tune of Till We Meet Again)

We belong to the Cath-o-lic Daugh-ters
And love you with all our heart
We will all do our part
To fur-ther our aims
And we all pledge our Fai-th anew

(Chorus)
We’re the Moth-er Court of our Great State
Wonder-ful Court Ma-ria Gal-an-te
Uni-ty and Char-i-ty
Dear to hearts of Cath-o-lic Daugh-ters
Let us give our time and efforts too
For the things that God would have us do
So let us lend a help-ing hand
To our fel-low man.
Meetings were held at the KC Hall
Dues were $6.00
We entered the first Spiritual Booth in Austin Home and Trade Show sponsored by the chamber of commerce
Volunteering for cancer crusades and donations to Holy Cross Hospital continued
The State CDA Young Poets Contest was held annually and awards were given to recipients
In 1959, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary at the State Convention in Austin. Governor Price Daniel proclaimed the anniversary of the Ct. Maria Galante as the beginning Catholic Daughters week in Texas.
In the 1960’s, we donated to the Christa Rey Convent to support their efforts with the community.

Christmas Carnival, Quilting, Cancer Sewing Group, Rummage Sales, Baby Clothes Project, and Card Parties were among the activities supported by members.

A Mortuary Fund was established to help with burial of any members who passed away.

The court sponsored those in need including a deaf Korean youth of the Mary Knoll Missions and a unwed pregnant mother.

Handmade Christmas toys were made by the court and donated to Brackenridge Hospital.
1951-1980 Trivia

- In 1973, much of the CDA Ct. #115 Archives were destroyed with the KC Hall
- Taco Dinners were started as a court fundraiser. Tickets were $1.75 Adult and $1.25 for Children.
- Priest Appreciation Dinners were held beginning in 1980
1981-2000 Trivia

- In 1993, Governor Ann Richards recognized the court’s work with youth in Central Texas and declared October 17\textsuperscript{th} as Maria Galante Court of CDA Day.

- An endowment to the court from a member was given posthumously to fund annual high school catholic scholarships, which continues to today.

- Taco Dinners continued to be the chief fundraiser for the court
1981-2000 Trivia
2000-2008 Trivia
Past Regents

1909 – 1912---Josephine Theis
1919 – 1922---Kathryn Lozano
1922 – 1926---Mary McNamarra
1926 – 1927---Jeannette Fischer
1927 – 1930---Mary McNamarra
1930 – 1932---Kathry Lozano
1932 – 1933---Bessie Wright
1933 – 1936---Kathryn Lozano
1936 – 1938---Margaret Schneider
1938 – 1939---Mrs. Lou Harris
1939 – 1942---Faye Goeth
1942 – 1944---Isabel Anderwald
1944 – 1946---Mary Hankey
1946 – 1948---Ethel Kies
1948 – 1949---Miriam Smith
1949 – 1950---Mrs. A. J. Maloney
1950 – 1951---Katherine Bleymaier
1951 – 1953---Mrs. Harvey Getchius
1953 – 1956---Mrs. Philip Zeissel
1956 – 1957---Mary Ann Keepers
1957 – 1958---Mrs. Harvey Getchius
1958 – 1959---Alicia Tilly
1959 – 1960---Mary Kelly
1961 – 1963---Mary Kelly
1963 – 1965---Helen Jackoskie
1965 – 1968---Mary Jane Marks
1968 – 1970---Gladys Longoria
1970 – 1971---Linda Rinehart
1971 – 1975---Noami Mezzetti Ippolito
1975 – 1977---Janet Elman
1977 – 1979---Flossie John
1979 – 1981---Rita Fredericks
1983 – 1987---Sally McPhaul
1987 – 1989---Noami Mezzetti Ippolito
1989 – 1991---Mary Jane Marks
1991 – 1995---Lydia Villagomez
1995 – 1997---Judy DeLeon
1997 – 1998---Diana Muggill
1998 – 2001---Joanne Counihan
2001 – 2004---Rachel Rocha
2004 – 2006---Lorelle Jacobs
2006 – 2008---LaNelle Blahuta
Then and Now

- **Dues**
  - 1909 = $4.25
  - 2009 = $25.00

- **Treasury Balance**
  - 1909 = $93.20
  - 2009 = $3,807.75

- **Taco Dinner Tickets**
  - 1973 = $1.75
  - 2009 = $6.00
Current Court Projects/Charities

- Youth and Education Contest
- Catholic High School Scholarships
- American Red Cross
- Any Baby Can
- Austin State Hospital
- Austin State School
- Diocese Respect for Life
- Faith Home (AIDS Babies)
- Family Preservation Unit of Child Protective Services
- Foundation for the Homeless
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hospice of Austin

- Marywood Children and Family Services
- Meals on Wheels
- Safe Place—Project Rachel
- Salvation Army
- St. Mary’s Cathedral School
- Catholic Study Club
- Circle of Love Program
- Taco and Lasagna Dinners
- Texas State Memorial Fund—Mass Cards
- Religious Appreciation Dinner
- Read Across America
Current Officers

- **Regent:** Melissa Counihan
- **Vice Regent:** Lucinda Gatica
- **Recording Secretary:** Terise Urias
- **Treasurer:** LaNelle Blahuta
- **Financial Secretary:** Margaret Myers
- **Court Chaplain:** Father Germanus Rayen
- **District Deputy:** Sirene Brunell
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Member Appreciation
Members with 0-10 Years Service

Maricela Cavazos-Colunga - 1
Maria-Ines Garcia - 1
Paulette Ladach - 1
Catherine Longoria - 1
Camille Moore - 1
Katherine Sawaki - 1
Judith Constantine - 2
Mary Mahoney - 2
Emily Avila - 3
Francia Harutunian - 3

Evelyn Tybor - 3
Kim Kocian - 4
Sara Castillo - 6
Sulema N. Vielma - 6
Lucinda Gatica - 7
Lisa Gonzales - 8
Amy Padilla - 8
Lorelle Jacobs - 9
Gilda Moncebaiz - 9
Lita Guerra - 10
Members with 11-20 Years Service

Pat Moore – 11 years
Joanne Counihan – 12 years
Melissa Counihan – 12 years
Terise Urias – 12 years
Elaine Matthys – 13 years
Mary Navarro – 13 years
Nicolasa DeLeon – 14 years
Judy DeLeon – 16 years
Rachel Rocha – 16 years
Myrtle Bashara – 19 years
Estela Chapa – 19 years
Members with 21-30 Years Service

Margaret Myers – 21 years
Mary Moya – 24 years
Jackie Roberson – 26 years
Rita Abshire – 27 years
Barbara Rethlake – 27 years
LaNelle Blahuta – 28 years
Members with 31-40 Years Service

- Dorothy Orton – 31 years
- Edith Balusek – 32 years
- Jan Robertson – 32 years
- Lydia P. Villagomez – 32 years
- Helen Monks – 33 years
- Erma Williams – 35 years
- Gladys Blakeslee – 38 years
- Rita Fredericks – 38 years
- Carmen Phillip – 38 years
Members with 41-49 Years Service

Dorothy Parker – 43 years
Maurine Thomason – 43 years
Geraldine Laier – 44 years
Noami Ippolito – 45 years
Gladys Longoria – 45 years
Members with 50+ Years Service

Odie Hamilton – 51 years
Marie Henery – 61 years
Emily Maxa – 61 years
Past Court Chaplains

- 1919 – 1913 --- Rev. Father John O-Keefe
- 19___ – 1919 --- Rev. Father Marr
- 19___ – 19___ --- Fr. Murphy
- 1971 – 1974 --- Fr. McQuade
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