

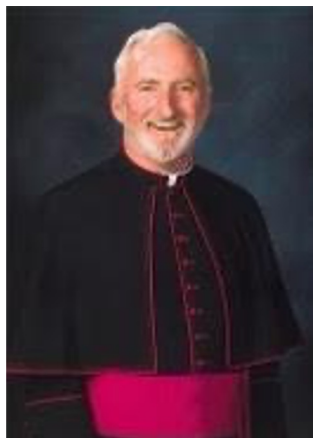


Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Women's Guild

Est. 1951

Vol. 21 No 7

"Shepherd for his People,"
April 2023



We have all been shocked and saddened by the untimely death of Bishop David O'Connell, who departed from us on February 18, 2023. We were even more alarmed when we learned how he

died. How could such a beautiful loving, selfless man of God and prayer die, so violently? I still am having a very difficult time comprehending the "void" that Bishop Dave's death put into my heart.

In the past few weeks there have been images on the news, showing how he was a champion for the poor, the needy, the marginalized. When news of his death became national and global news, prayer services and novenas were started throughout the parishes and churches throughout our country.

Then came the statements of condolences and sympathy from President Biden, statements from Pope Francis remembering the bishop for his "profound concern for the poor, immigrants and those in need. Archbishop Gomez's message reiterated Bishop Dave's "compassion to the poor, to the homeless, to the immigrant and to all those living on society's margins." But it is through the stories, the prayer services we have participated in, that we hear the

selflessness
man, the
message of
mile, of giving



the cost. Yes,

OLPH WOMEN'S GUILD MISSION STATEMENT

Bishop Dave was

A group of united, inspired ladies dedicated to enriching the lives of others through spiritual, social and charitable activities in our parish and community guided by the Blessed Mother.

Continued on page 7

Volunteer of the Year

At our February Board meeting, Linda was voted to be our Volunteer of the Year, and she will be acknowledged as our recipient at the Downey Coordinating Council Celebration dinner on May 10, 2023 at the Women's Club. The unanimous vote for her recognition is a testament to her service commitment.

Linda still remembers when Jim Dornan recruited her and Pat Wilson to help with computer work at the Living Help Center (LHC), where she and Pat Wilson worked together in the evenings preparing the monthly 'thank you' letters for LHC donors. It was at the LHC where Linda met Lou Ugliano and Terry Lambros, and they invited her to join the Women's Guild. She also met Vicki Carnevale, who always helped her decorate the baby crib for the annual LCH Baby Supply Drive at OLPH held every January. Looking back, Linda happily acknowledges that the Guild has been more than a social outlet for her, it has become her spiritual support, and she feels blessed to work with all Guild members.



Linda Malme helping LAHSA. Julie Jimenez is to the right.

The volunteer activity Linda cherishes the most is her work in the Tuna Sandwich Program. One day, she delivered a few cans of tuna to the home of Georgianna Higson, founder of the Sandwich Program. Georgie invited Linda into her home, and during their visit she heard Georgie's deep commitment to serve God's poor. She was still working at the time, but she never forgot the spirituality of Georgie and her mission. Once she retired and with encouragement from Irma Saavedra, Linda and Glenn became involved with the Tuna Sandwich Program. Sally and Bill Johnston along with Jimmy and Diane Andrews made sure all food preparations were ready every Tuesday evening for the sandwich prep team. Linda and Glenn, along with other regular helpers, Miguel Tamayo, Ovidio Diaz, Carlos Zevallos, Ron Meyer, and Mike Cimino to name a few, met in the school kitchen to make sandwiches. Glenn was the official sandwich counter, and he would give everyone a 'shout out' when they reached their goal of 400 sandwiches.

In March 2020, the Tuna Sandwich Program closed due to the Covid pandemic restrictions. While they could no longer make sandwiches for the homeless in downtown Los Angeles, Linda and Glenn made connections with Downey First Christian Church, St. Dominic Savio, St. John of God, St. Hilary and St. Linus to share our bread donations with them. With Fr. Danny's recommendation, they deliver bread and pastries to the Franciscan Sisters who serve the homeless and poor in Boyle Heights.

Because of Linda's reputation as a quiet reliable helper, OLPH and community leaders call her to help those with emergency needs. She might get a call from Irma Saavedra about an OLPH family in need, or most recently from Kimberly Barnette from Los Angeles Homeless Shelter Authority (LAHSA) asking for food and clothing to help those temporarily displaced by the recent rains and flooding. And, when Linda has called her Guild members for help, we have responded.

Continue on page 4

Women's Guild Vice President

Lucy Solares



With the arrival of April and with Easter around the corner, we hope everyone is having a meaningful Lent and a special time with family and friends. What a wonderful time for new beginnings, both personally and in our surroundings.

The "Irish Charm" March General Meeting had an awesome turn out. The Aniar Academy Irish Dancers were very entertaining and danced beautifully! The hall had the perfect atmosphere with clovers and a lot of green decorations throughout, with the delicious Irish food completing the theme. A special shout out in gratitude and support to the Refreshment Coordinators: Dianna Hampton, JoAnna Fernandez, Linda Malme, Mary Ellen Dunn, Yolanda Ramirez, JoAnn Ramirez, Lourdes Pena, Diane Garcia, Jill Lavey, and Andrea Lozano.

A few thank you's are in order: Nora Szechy for donating the book she wrote *Nora, An Ordinary Girl from Inchicore* and the Waterford crystal candy dish, to Leila Giries for the nicely decorated decoupage bottles, and to Nancy Lopez for the beautiful white rose flower arrangements. With much appreciation to Julie Bosdachin for selling the raffle tickets.

Mark your calendar: It is time for tea! We hope you can join us for our Mardi Gras Tea Party, honoring our Past Presidents on April 12, 2023 at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help School Hall, from 12:00 – 3:00 pm. The reservation deadline is April 4th, cost per person \$45.00. Wear your tea hat and join in the contest, raffle, and prizes! Food will be catered by Zeezo's. Contact Linda Malme at (562) 869-6491.

Guided by the Blessed Mother!



Who has been your Angel?

Yolanda Ramirez

Our faith journeys are unique to us; some are smooth and easy; others are bumpy and circuitous. God in His greatness, meets us wherever we are, with unconditional love. Just like King Cyrus was an unexpected support to the Jews in Babylonian captivity, God supports us when and where we least expect it. As a Nurse's Aide at Downey Community Hospital, I met a wonderful

patient. She called me to her room, and said she had a special gift for me. She told me, "You find what you are looking for in people. And, you can learn something from everyone you meet." She made such an impression upon me, that I have never forgotten her or what she said.

Throughout my career, her guiding words helped me in many trying times. Today, I am in a different place along my faith journey, and my faith allows me to see what my eyes did not see before. I realize God sent Mrs. Grooms to me. Her message was telling me; if I look for God in everyone, I will see Him. If I am humble, I will truly listen to them. I will learn from them and respect their worth. Faith gives us our sight to see God. Wisdom gives us the capacity to understand God's plan.

Who is the angel God sent to you?

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President... Jo Ann Ramirez

Vice President... Lucy Solares

Recording Secretary...

Julie Bosdachin

Treasurer... Dianna Hampton

Corresponding Secretary...

Ruby Gaytan

Altar Chair... Margie Delgado

Ways and Means...

Heidy De La Rosa

Lourdes Pena

Editor...Ruby Gaytan

Reservation Representative...

Linda Malme

Historian... Vicki Carnevale

CONTACT THE GUILD AT:

womensguild@olphdowney.com

Website:

womensguild.olphdowney.com

Volunteer of the Year from page 2

With Linda's coordination, Guild members collected lots of warm clothing and food for those most recently affected by the record-breaking rain and cold in Los Angeles.

Linda really enjoys her social connections with her Guild sisters. Thanks to her tenacity as our ticket reservation coordinator, Linda works magic to get all of our tables filled for our general meetings and fundraising events. She has been known to drive to someone's home to pick up the money for their ticket!

When asked what motivates her, Linda quickly responded with a quote she has memorized, "Service is love in action. I feel like I am on borrowed time, and I don't want to waste it. I am so grateful that I can get around and help others. I feel peaceful and content when I do."

We are very grateful to know Linda and work with her.

If you would like to join us on May 10th to celebrate Linda's volunteer spirit, please call Yolanda Ramirez, Guild representative to the Downey Coordinating Council at 562-355-0910 and leave a message. Reservation deadline is March 29, 2023. Dinner is \$45.00 per person.

Financial Report for February 1, 2023

Dianna Hampton

Beginning Balance: Feb. 1, 2023..... \$ 20,285.19

Deposits - February \$ 2,155.50

Expenses - February..... \$ 2,567.61

Ending Balance: Feb. 28, 2023..... \$ 19,873.08

Nominating Committee

Armida Lugo, Chairwoman
Paula Mayfield and Rose Douglas

Spring brings us joy and lifts the soul. There's freshness in the air, it's a season of change, a time to celebrate. Let's enjoy the outdoors, and spend time with nature, it's God's creation for us to enjoy!

You're invited

Installation Mass - Friday, May 26, 2023

OLPH Church at the 8:15 am Mass

Reception Following Mass - complimentary refreshments will be served

Location to be announced at the General Meeting, April 12th

Congratulations

2023-2024 Slate of Executive Board Officers

The following proposed Slate of Officers of the Executive Board for 2023-2024 were introduced at the March General Meeting for ratification:

President:	Lucy Solares
Vice President:	Nancy Lopez
Recording Secretary:	Julie Bosdachin
Corresponding Secretary:	Ruby Gaytan
Treasurer:	Dianna Hampton
Altar:	Margie Delgado
Ways and Means:	Leila Giries



HALL RENTAL

Knights of Columbus

Conveniently located in Downey
the hall is available for:

- Anniversary parties
- Wedding receptions
- Christmas & holiday parties
- Retirement events

Seats up to 170 guests
Elevated stage for band or DJ
Full-service bar area
Professional kitchen
(available to keep food warm
only;
no cooking privileges.
Free on-site parking

Contact: Mario Mendoza (714)
367-6966

BINGO

Knights of Columbus
Downey

11231 Rives Ave. 90241
562.923.1932

**Bingo Every Tuesday Night
Early Bird Special Begins at
6:00 pm**

Regular games at 7:00 pm

Embrace Grace

by Julie Bosdachin



The Religious Education Congress opened fully in-person for the first time in three years. It was on the first weekend of Lent and was marred by the horrific news

of the death of Bishop David O'Connell. "Embrace Grace" was theme chosen for this Congress, and in our pain and sorrow, we were invited to enter deeply into the mystery of God's love for us.

Sacred Space is an area where all are invited to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. This year a tribute to Bishop Dave was added and we were invited to leave a message of love and gratitude.

In the main arena, a beautiful multicultural and multilingual prayer service was led by lay ministers and attended by Archbishop Jose Gomez, the Bishops of Los Angeles, many of their fellow bishops and priest, and a full house of the faithful.

This year's keynote speaker was Bishop Joseph A. Espailat II, an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of New York. He was appointed by Pope Francis in January 2022. Bishop Joe is the youngest Catholic bishop and the first Dominican bishop in the United States. Bishop Espailat was named in 2015 as pastor of

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in The Bronx, New York, a position he still holds. He grew up in Manhattan where he learned to speak three languages: English, Spanish, and Street! He loves ministering the sacraments, celebrating the holy sacrifice of the Mass, hearing confessions, and proclaiming the Word of God.



Bishop Joe spoke about evangelizing to youth and about his hope for a spiritual renewal. He brought a message of hope and the fire of the Holy Spirit. And he left us all on fire!

Every day we had the opportunity to worship together in beautiful liturgies that highlighted just a few of the 40 different languages and cultures in our Archdiocese. Sara Hart, catholic composer, so eloquently expressed how we are one church but so many different expressions. Traveling the United States, she gets to experience a lot of different cultures and sees the universality of the church. She spoke of being culturally and geographically sensitive to how parishes express worship yet at the same time, follow the same rubrics. She spoke about being a product of Appalachia where church music has guitars, and autoharps and mandolins, whereas back East it's choir lofts and organs,

Embrace Grace continued from page 6

and here is a melting pot of so many different cultures. I loved that we were able to taste some of those different cultural liturgies that make up the Body of Christ, in Los Angeles, the nation and the world.

In all our workshops, we had the opportunity to reflect on the experience of the power of God's grace given to each of us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This weekend, I was blessed to have the opportunity to continue deepening God's invitation to "Embrace Grace", and to become the Eucharistic love for my family, church, and community.



"Shepherd for his People." He was truly a "Shepherd for his People." Monsignor Timothy Dyer, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Los Angeles, remarked how Bishop Dave "was passionate about standing up for immigrants, standing against racism and standing up for the unborn and women." At the funeral Mass at the Cathedral Monsignor Jarleth Cunnane, pastor of St. Cornelius Church in Long Beach, who was Bishop Dave's classmate in the seminary in Dublin and "soul friend" of Bishop Dave for 52 years, delivered the eulogy. He quoted an eloquent poetic phrase from the ancient Greek philosopher Aeschylus, "In our sleep, pain which cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart until, in our own despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God." Yes, we are sad, but we have gained wisdom and grace. Grace that Bishop Dave showed us throughout his 45 years serving the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

Our family had the pleasure of knowing Bishop Dave for 42 years. Our first encounter was as an "engaged" couple being counseled in preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony at St. Raymond's Church in 1981.



Celebrate Virtually the Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thurs., April 6, 2023 • 7:00 pm
Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

The traditional washing of the feet that takes place on Holy Thursday will renew this year with the participation of 12 faithful.

This is an option if you cannot attend this service in person. To access the livestream of this Eucharistic Celebration, log on to:

<https://lacatholics.org/holyweek/>



Birthdays of the Month

3 Marilyn Orlando

4 Andrea A. Lozano

5 Mary Ellen Dunne

6 Susan Schrader

7 Irma Saavedra

8 Michelle Dauphin

8 Theresa Nicholas

9 Merinda Yu

13 Vicki Carnevale

17 Mary Griley

24 Gabriela Perez

25 Martha E. Michel

26 Madeleine

Charolla

29 Joe Commodore

Catholic Women's Guild

Membership

ROSE DOUGLAS

Please update the Women's Guild
directory.

NEW ADDRESS CHANGES:

Joanne Earl
11616 Papagallo Ct.
San Diego, CA 92124-2801 (p. 29)

Theresa Nicholas
14051 Lake Crest Dr.
La Mirada, CA 90639 (p. 41)

Kathy Hughes
562 414-9520
hugheskathy1147@gmail.com (p. 35)

SPELLING:

P4 - Altar Chair - Margie Delgado
P17 - April 26 Madeleine Charolla
P48 - Stephenson, Maria

New Members

Donahue, Theresa
cell - 562-774-5363
Birthday May 28
10550 Haledon 90241
Stilltheresa@yahoo.com

Rogers, Mary
cell - 562-469-9908
Birthday Sept 2, spouse Dennis
8569 10th St. 90241
mrs.maryrogers@yahoo.com

Vasquez, Kareli
cell - 323-712-1129
Birthday March 22
1051 Stone Street
Los Angeles, CA 90063
karelicampos@yahoo.com



Update

"Shepherd for his People." A few years later Bishop Dave married Alex and I at St. Hilary's Church in Pico Rivera. During our married life, Bishop Dave was always there for all of the major milestones in our lives; First Communion for my daughter, Michelle, later in 2002, officiating at John and Michelle's marriage, baptizing both of my grandchildren, Annelise and Riley, visiting Alex in the hospital when he suffered a stroke, blessing our new homes, speaking at Alex's retirement dinner celebration, and ultimately presiding over the Christian Burial Mass for my Alex, in August of 2020. Now with the culmination of Bishop Dave's death, the "full circle experience" of Bishop Dave with the Santana Family, has been closed.



Yes, we are all saddened by the death of our dear "soul friend." In Gaelic the phrase soul friend is called the "Anam Cara," which is rooted in the Celtic tradition meaning "a person who acted as a teacher, companion or spiritual guide." Yes, Bishop Dave personified all of these things in our lives.

However, in the depth of our darkness, comes light. We are now filled with the infinite, abundant grace that Bishop Dave has received from God in Heaven. Grace, that is ready to flow upon us all. As Bishop Dave's nephew spoke so poignantly at his Uncle's funeral. "We now have the opportunity to pick up where Bishop Dave left off. We can carry on the example that he set. Help those that need our help. Have patience and give everyone a chance." So let's celebrate and keep the spirit of Bishop Dave forever in all of our hearts. We can now be his hands, his feet, his devotion for others. We can be the "helping hands" for our neighbors. We "can give and not count the cost."

I am enclosing an excerpt from an Irish hymn, The Deer's Cry by Shaun Davey, which was sung at his funeral.

"Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lay down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arrive, Christ to shield me, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me. I arise today!"

Jesus I Trust in You! This was Bishop Dave's personal motto when he became Bishop. It represents his personal spirituality and theologically based philosophy of life and is grounded in Sacred Scripture. This motto is found on his Banderole (motto ribbon) which was presented at his Bishop ordination in 2015.

Catholic Women's Guild
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
10727 Downey Avenue
Downey, CA 90241-3439

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Bell Gardens, Ca
Permit #5491

Change of Service
Requested



MARDI GRAS ITEMS WILL BE SOLD

COME JOIN US FOR A
MARDI GRAS
TEA
HONORING OUR PAST GUILD PRESIDENTS

CATERED BY ZEEZO'S INC.
\$45 PER PERSON

APRIL 12, 2023
12:00-3:00PM



OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP SCHOOL
10441 S. DOWNEY AVE. 90241

BEADS * MUSIC * MASKS * BOAS

Hat Contest



RSVP by April 4 by contacting Linda M.
No refunds past reservation deadline