

Catholic Women's Guild

P R E S I D E N T

Lucy Solares



Vol. 22 No. 4

Catholic Women's Guild Mission Statement

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.



Due to the complexities of Father Danny's schedule, the Executive Board was not able to meet with him to discuss the benefits of working under the Church umbrella and the details of how the Church would handle the Guild's finances. We will be giving a presentation to our membership at the January 17th General Meeting listing the differences between working under the Church umbrella or becoming an independent 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. You can see the list of the pros and cons for both options on our website at: womensguild.olphdowney.com.



Welcome 2024! The new year is an opportunity for a new beginning for many, especially for our Women's Guild. With a new beginning comes change and change is something we all need - it is an ongoing part of life. With the constant life demands, adjustments to our plans are the new norm. For the Women's Guild this is a time of change.

In mid-December you received a letter informing you that the Women's Guild (Guild) could not continue to operate as a ministry of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH) Church using its own bank account, due to changes within the Archdiocese. The Legal Department of the Archdiocese informed us that "The Archdiocesan policies have become much more formal, especially in areas of organizational structures and financial responsibility." As a result, the Guild has two options: The first option is for the Guild to remain a ministry of the Church and have liability protections of the Church, without the Guild having its own bank account - all funds would run through the parish accounts. The second option is for the Guild to establish itself as an independent entity. This would likely be an incorporated non-profit organization that could apply for tax-exempt status, most likely a 501(c)(3). A presentation will be given regarding the options at our January 17th General Meeting and your presence will be highly valued.

On a lighter note, we are more than halfway past this fiscal year, and we have been able to achieve so much! Let us remember our philanthropic accomplishments as we look back on past events.

We began in June with the Frantone's Fundraiser. Many Guild members and parishioners joined for a delicious Italian meal before Frantone's closed its Downey location. In September we had the BBQ fundraiser at Hambones, home of the Real California Barbecue. Between both, we raised close to \$535.00.

The Sunset Hawaiian Dinner, along with some of the raffles from our General Meetings, and Adopt-A-Star, raised a total of \$3,837.00, benefitting our Fourth Annual Christmas Adopt-A-Family 2023. The Walmart gift cards were purchased by Treasurer, Dianna Hampton, and the disbursement of gift cards during the Christmas season was coordinated by our Executive Secretary, Julie Bosdachin, and me at the Knights of Columbus Hall. A total of 25 families, with 28 children and 58 adults, were the recipients.

Continue on page 3



CATHOLIC WOMENS
GUILD

Miracle of Christmas





VICE PRESIDENT

NANCY LOPEZ



Happy 2024 and cheers to new beginnings! Can you believe we're almost a quarter of the way into the 21st century? Time has quickly passed. As we welcome the new year, let us take some time to reflect and be thankful for all our blessings of 2023 and may the New Year spirit brighten all your days of the year!

I hope everyone had a peaceful and memorable Christmas. A big thank you to all those who attended and helped organize our 2023 Christmas Luncheon to support our Scholarship Program. The luncheon was a great success as we had 184 members, friends and family attend. Many went home with lovely gift baskets, centerpieces, wreaths, Christmas trees, hand knitted blankets and shawls, theater and comedy show tickets, gift cards and many more raffle prizes. A great big thank you to our Ways and Means Chair, Leila Gerles and Co-chair, Maria Stephenson for delivering a fantastic presentation of A Bethlehem Christmas. A touching and breathtaking video taken during Leila's and Maria's visit to the Holy Land this past summer, played on the big screen throughout the entire event for everyone to enjoy. Intricate carved Christmas ornaments from Bethlehem were quickly acquired by many of our members and guests. Upon entering, a panorama of beautiful decorations brightened the hall and the aroma of delicious food enticed our appetites. As the air was alive with chatter and laughter, the cheerful Christmas music played by Christine Pohlen and family created the desired atmosphere for this joyous occasion. We hope that you will be able to join us next year.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming General Meeting on Wednesday, January 17th. Coffee, juice, water and pastries will be served. There will be no entrance fee for this meeting. However, please be sure to register with Linda Malme so that we may have an idea of how many members will be attending so that we may plan accordingly for this event.

Wishing everyone a year fully loaded with peace, happiness, prosperity and good health.



President's Article Continued

Each child received a \$50.00 Walmart gift card and families were assisted depending on the size of the family.

The return of the highly anticipated casino trip to Harrah's Resort Southern California was a big success. Guests played games on the bus and enjoyed the day at the casino! We raised \$1,078.00, benefiting Community Grants and Scholarships.

At the Standup Comedy Club, Fritz Coleman stole the show! Comedian Bernadette Pauley and Comedian/Magician, The Great Omar, were also very entertaining. There were lots of laughs and good food, and we raised \$720.00.

Congratulations to Leila Giries and Maria Stephenson, our Ways and Means Chairs for organizing our 36th Annual Christmas Luncheon, themed "A Bethlehem Christmas," at the Azar Event Center. The event was simply spectacular. Through their leadership, they provided the Christmas Luncheon team the support needed and made all the prep work run smoothly, making it enjoyable and fun.

Regardless of what path the membership decides is best going forward, the Guild will continue to be a well-organized, spirit filled, and strong organization, guided by the Blessed Mother. As Socrates once said, "The Secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new!" So, we will embrace the change that is coming our way, and we will continue with our charitable work, confident that our efforts will benefit individuals who really need our help.

Looking ahead are the scholarship and community grant disbursements, the St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser, and the Installation of the 2024-2025 Executive Board. God bless you and your family with good health, happiness, and inspiration throughout the new year.



Spiritual Development

PAULA MAYFIELD

Our Lord urges His disciples (us!) to be prudent servants and follow His ways. Prudence is that sure touch, that moral instinct that renders one capable of making the right decision under pressure and in the face of complex circumstances; for the most part, instinctual. Prudence is a feel for how Jesus would react, how He would think in a particular situation. We are Christ's apprentices. Ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"

Taken from the inspiration of Bishop Robert Barron

MEMBERSHIP

Rose Douglas

Happy New Year to all of you and your families. I hope you had plenty of good times, family memories, good food and maybe some quiet restful time during the holidays. They sure went by fast!! For everyone who responded to my text, email or letter about renewing your membership, thank you so much. And if you have not renewed yet, please send in your renewal as soon as possible to:

Catholic Women's Guild
c/o Rose Douglas
7732 Gainford Street
Downey, CA 90240

Please note any changes in your address, phone numbers or email that are different from what is printed in the Directory. I will be preparing a directory insert with all new members and any changes that will be mailed with the February newsletter.

Your membership supports our ability to give grants to church, school and community as well as 8th grade scholarships. We will also be planning spring events that will be announced in each month's newsletter. Thank you for your membership in the Catholic Women's Guild.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Lucy Solares

Vice President
Nancy Lopez

Recording Secretary
Julie Bosdachin

Treasurer
Dianna Hampton

Corresponding Secretary
Yolanda Ramirez

Altar Chair
Margie Delgado

Ways and Means
Leila Giries



Linda Malme and Paula Mayfield collaborated with Theresa Nicholas, OLPH Director of Religious Education, in distributing Christmas gift bags to our homebound parishioners.

This outreach program connects with those who cannot physically attend Mass or participate in church activities. For 73 years the CWG's spirit of giving and providing service to those in need and recognizing that all humans have physical, emotional, and spiritual needs has been a cornerstone of our service to parish and community.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

Jo Ann Ramirez

Pastoral Council



CWG volunteers Patti Sharpe, Lourdes Pena, Julie Bosdachin, Maria Roque, Yolanda Ramirez, Maria Gomez and Jo Ann Ramirez helped serve refreshments following this year's Mañanitas and Mass celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe; Patroness of the Americas. Participants enjoyed coffee, canela tea (cinnamon tea), churros and pan dulce while commemorating this significant religious and cultural occasion. The CWG's service exemplified the spirit of community and hospitality enhancing the overall experience for all involved in honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe.

RECAP OF RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Paula Mayfield



Once again, the OLPH Women's Guild /Red Cross Blood Drive on Nov 12 exceeded our goal! Our goal was to collect 42 units of blood and we actually collected 44 units! Thank you to all of our donors! We polled every one of our donors, asking them where they had heard about our blood drive and the majority were responding to the after-Mass announcements and to the physical presence of a Guild member at the Baptismal font, ready to answer questions and to schedule them to donate.

Some statistics: over the course of 7 blood drives, we have had a total of 357 donors. We have collected a total of 332 units of blood. Each unit of blood can save up to 3 lives, hence, potentially 996 lives have been impacted by the Guild's blood drives! Didn't Mother Teresa say something about doing small things with great love?! Our donors may not have changed the world, but they most definitely helped change at least one life! Our blood donations went to several different hospitals: PIH Downey, Kaiser Downey, St. Francis Med Center, PIH Whittier, White Memorial Adventist Health Montebello (formerly Beverly Hosp), and LAC+USC. Thank you to all the volunteers who stayed after Mass announcements and who helped the day of the Drive: Heidi D, Terry W, Teresa R, Jill L, Rose D, Yolanda R, Mary Ellen D, Lupe G, Lucy S, Maria S, Hala H, Leila G, Margie D, Linda M.

Save the date: Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024, 8 AM to 2 PM!



BYLAWS AMENDMENT:

A Time to Pause...

Jo Ann Ramirez

Bylaws Committee Chair

Happy January BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Leila Giries
- 1 Regina Hodson
- 1 Hop Morrison
- 5 Terry Ramirez
- 5 Jo Ann Ramirez
- 6 Theresa Gallagher
- 8 Catherine Page
- 11 Maria Reyes-Ibarra
- 14 Charo Maisch
- 15 Evy Snyder
- 16 Bonnie Beall
- 19 Teresa Velez
- 20 Carrie Uva
- 22 Annie Juarez
- 26 Olga Garcia Crawford
- 28 Mayda De Castro
- 28 Pat Gonzalez
- 29 KC Cordero
- 30 Jill Lavey
- 31 Yolanda Ramirez

After careful consideration the Bylaws Committee and the Executive Committee of the Catholic Women’s Guild have decided to implement a temporary pause on any amendment changes to our current Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules.

This decision to pause our review coordinates with a comprehensive assessment of the Guild’s future and any possible changes that may come forward. We understand the amendment process is critical for the growth and adaptability of the organization. Rest assured, this temporary pause is meant to better serve the evolving needs of our members and the community we serve.

Financial Report for October and November

Dianna Hampton

October 1, 2023	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Beginning Balance:	\$7,139.09	\$9,220.48	\$16,359.57
Deposits:	\$1,151.72	\$2,954.14	\$4,105.86
Expenses:	\$1,419.16	\$0.00	\$1,419.16
Ending Balance:	\$6,871.65	\$12,479.05	\$19,350.70
November 1, 2023	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Beginning Balance:	\$6,871.65	\$12,479.05	\$19,350.70
Deposits:	\$9,890.38	\$273.86	\$10,164.24
Expenses:	\$1,173.24	\$0.00	\$1,173.24
Ending Balance:	\$15,588.79	\$12,752.91	\$28,341.70

CORRECTION

This notice is to amend the incorrect information posted in the November/December 2023 newsletter citing all donations taken in from the Miracle of Christmas raffle will be donated to the CWG Scholarship Fund.

CWG, in compliance with California State Law and Archdiocesan guidelines, shall designate 90% of the donations to the CWG Scholarship Fund with the remaining 10% to be used to cover the costs related to the raffle. We apologize for any inconvenience we may have caused. Thank you for your continued support of the Guild’s Scholarship Fund.



Catholic Women's Guild
7732 Gainford St.
Downey, CA 90240

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

Change of Service Requested



General Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
at
10:00 AM



Knights of Columbus
11231 Rives Ave
Downey

RSVP by 1/12/24



Contact Linda Malme @ 562-869-6491

FREE - NO entrance fee

Coffee, juice, water, and pastries

Presentation

Ministry Under Church Umbrella or Going Independent 501(c)(3)