

Journal

The Isabella

July 2009



Message from our International Regent

Happy summer! As you read this issue of *The Isabella*, we will be in the middle of our summer season. Perhaps your Local Circle does not meet during July and August and you are enjoying a well-deserved rest. But, remember that work on membership must be ongoing, 12 months of the year. We must always be ready to invite new members to join our circles, as Daughters of Isabella, as laborers in the Lord's Vineyard – doing his work.



To do His work, God has given each and every one of us certain talents – but, sometimes our talents are viewed by us or others as insignificant. That is not so. We may cheerfully share money through our charities, thinking that every little bit helps, yet, when it comes time to share ourselves and the skills that perhaps only we have, we think we don't really have anything worthwhile to offer. I believe we sometimes fail to recognize that our love, our hope, our compassion for others may well be our unique gifts.

Perhaps we have the gift of laughter. People may say, "It does me so good to talk to you." Or we may have faith that can move mountains. A cheery call to someone who seems down may be just enough to give that friend hope for the future. Any gift we have comes from God. It is given to us, but we are expected to share it. So, I guess this tells us that as we go about doing God's work in our vineyard (our circles, our parishes and our community), we not be afraid to use the unique gifts that God has given us so that we may have the opportunity to change someone's life.

Today, in these difficult, economic times, we are needed now more than ever. This can be a time that the Daughters of Isabella will shine, as they reach out to the needs of many in the community – the youth who may need help with funds for school or activities; the elderly who may need a helping hand or visit to the Nursing Home. We can bring light to a dark world. The Daughters of Isabella are the light of the world!

Mrs. Elaine Leger

Respect Life

Since the beginning of the year, we have seen abortion promoted as bills have been signed, appointments have been made, and other actions have occurred. Abortion has expanded worldwide with taxpayers paying much of the expense.

A recent poll that was taken shows that the majority of the people in the United States consider themselves “Pro Life.” People who call themselves “Pro Choice” are in the minority.

We need to continue to pray for the babies, and their mothers and fathers. Pray for the sidewalk counselors, those that have had abortions, and those aborting babies.

You can support our unborn by never being silent, passive, or forgetting the unborn. Never stop defending life. May we have a nation that has liberty and justice for all!

Beverly Voigt
United State Director

Publicity

“Publicity/publicize”, according to Webster’s Dictionary, means “to make known.” As Co-Chairman of the Publicity Committee, I would like to challenge each and every member of our great organization “to make known” the Daughters of Isabella – make known who we are, make known what we stand for, and make known what we do – in our

families, in our neighborhoods, in our churches and in our communities. Only then will each of us be doing our fair share to ensure the continuation of our Order. We cannot rely totally on our local Scribes to spread the word; we, as members, have a duty to assist in this effort.

Please remember when “making known” our Order to be positive and cheerful about your involvement and the activities of your Circle and your members. I truly believe that we, as members, have it in our power – each and every one of us – to inspire each other in this work. Get rid of the negative mentality and put on a cloak of “positiveness” toward the future of our organization. One of my favorite sayings is: “A good thing to remember, but a better thing to do, is to work with the Construction Gang and not with the Wrecking Crew”. Please try to put that idea into practice.

Our Lord calls us to be a Light to the World; He does not ask us to hide our talents, our love for one another, and our exuberance for life. I am asking that you “Let Your Love Show and Let Your Light Shine” to the world in this time of darkness!

God Bless,

Janet E. Caouette,
International Director, U.S.

Nails in the fence

There once was a little boy who had a **bad** temper. His father gave him a **bag of nails** and told him that **every time** he lost his

temper, he **must hammer** a nail into the back of the fence. The first day the boy had driven **37 nails** into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he **learned to control** his anger, the number of nails hammered daily **gradually** dwindled **down**. He discovered it **was easier** to hold his temper than drive those nails into the fence.

Finally the day came that the boy didn’t lose his temper **at all**. He **told his father** about it and the father suggested that the boy now **pull out** one nail for each day that he was able to **hold** his temper.

The days passed and the young boy was **finally able** to tell his father that **all** the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said. “You have **done well**, my son, but **look** at the holes in the fence. The fence will **never** be the same. When you say things in anger, they **leave a scar** just like this one. If you wound a man with a knife, it won’t matter **how many times** you say I’m sorry, the wound is still there.” A verbal wound is **as bad** as a physical one.

Christiane Chagnon
International Vice Regent

Daughters of Isabella history

After many years of work, our new history is now available. Please talk about the history and encourage them to purchase not

only one of their own, but as a gift for someone. A lot of time, effort and expense was put out by many in order for all of us to have this wonderful treasure – a bound book telling the story of the Daughters of Isabella. Remember also that a contribution to the History Fund (to help defray the expenses of writing and publishing) of \$30 or more fulfills one of the requirements for the Awards Program.

contaminants and contribute towards proper joint health.




News from our circles

Joan of Arc Circle 1405 Metairie, LA

For the last several years, our circle has been actively involved in preparing for the St. Joseph altar at St. Francis Xavier Parish. Every Saturday, from January through the Feast of St. Joseph (March 19), members choose to offer their time to St. Joseph in response to favors granted or petitions for help. We “roll” approximately 50,000 fig and a variety of biscotti cookies to place on the altar and give away. The tradition of the St. Joseph altar began in Sicily when the people prayed to St. Joseph for relief from a severe drought. In thanksgiving, the Sicilians promised to celebrate St. Joseph’s Feast Day by making a table abundant in the foods commonly grown on the island such as lemons, oranges, figs, artichokes, fennel, basil, fava beans and spinach. You will also find a variety of fancy breads baked in the shape of a hammer, nails, cross, different seafood and hearts. No profit is made from an altar. Any donations collected and all food is used for the poor and needy of the area. The Sicilians brought the

tradition of the altar to the United States and more specifically, to New Orleans as they settled and found work around the Mississippi River port. Along with the St. Joseph Altar Society and the Knight of Columbus, we served lunch consisting of Pasta Milanese, salad, bread, dessert, tea or wine – all free of charge – almost 1,300 visitors. Everyone helps in their own way from baking, cooking Italian dishes, making flower or fruit and vegetable arrangements, preparing visitor bags or photographing the altar. We are proud to be involved in upholding this wonderfully symbolic tradition and treasure the friendships made during this time.



St. Francis Circle #232, Wilson, KS

St. Francis Circle #232, Wilson, KS. prepared for Lent with a day of reflection. The speaker for the event was Sister Carolyn Teter of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia. She led the members and guests through a series of types of prayer and ways to pray. This day was held the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.



The Benefits of Drinking Water

One of the more obvious benefits of drinking water is keeping your entire body hydrated. Proper hydration allows your internal organs to function properly as well as keeping your skin moisturized and looking young. Basically, your entire body has to have water in order to work correctly.

The importance of drinking water really becomes obvious when trying to control your weight. Not only does it help you feel full when eating, it also increases your energy. By increasing your energy, you are more likely to exercise more, which not only helps you lose weight, but it keeps your heart healthy.

Other benefits of drinking water include helping to regulate your internal body temperature and keeping a good, strong immune system. By drinking water, you can also cleanse your system of

Not only was this attended by D of I sisters but husbands were present along with members of other parishes and members of a Lutheran Church. Five Kansas State Officers also attended.

At the conclusion a luncheon was enjoyed by all. Mary Mattas, Chancellor was chairman. She was assisted by Outer guard Janiece Kornmeyer and our newest member, Dorothy Brokes, Community members Catholic and non-Catholic have requested that D of I plan a day of reflection for 2010 to continue with the theme of preparing for Lent.

Belinda Kasper,
Regent



College of William & Mary Circle #1429

On Saturday, May 2, 2009, 21 young college students proudly took part in the Conferral of Degrees and became members of the new College of William and Mary Circle #1429 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The Conferral Ceremony and Installation of Officers was led by International Regent Elaine Leger and assisted by International Vice Regent Christiane Chagnon and Office Manager Sharon Carlo. Members of the Knights of Columbus Council #11501 assisted at the Installation by acting as Marshals for the new officers. Chaplain of the Circle is Rev. Mike Joly

Installed Officers were: Regent: Rachel Rinehart; Vice-Regent:

Elizabeth Horne; Honorary Past Regent: Elizabeth Kelly; Financial Secretary: Mary Kate Kearney; Recording Secretary: Sarah Stuart; Treasurer: Mary Ellen Pitard; Scribe: Angela Dugas; Chancellor: Catherine Palmer; Auditor: Susan Metallo; Custodian: Katie Danner.



Circle of the Quarter

Our Lady of Grace Circle # 611, Gaylord, MI Chairperson: Agnes Moore Members of the Circle prepared, donated, and served a supper for the indigent and needy people. Ten (10) members prepared and served the meals. About 85-90 people were served, many of whom were young adults. In these difficult times, the Daughters of Isabella can make a big difference by their charitable assistance in helping the others.

Congratulation and may you continue helping others.



A new Circle forms in Pennsylvania

On April 18, 2009, thirty-seven women became Charter members of St. Brigid Circle #1428 of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The Ceremony was held at the Knights of Columbus Council #551 Home in Altoona under the direction of International Organizer Leola Myers from North Carolina, assisted by International Regent Elaine Leger from Florida and International Director Susanne Suchy from Michigan.

Following the Conferral of Degrees, members and family attended a Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph V. Adamec, Bishop of Altoona-Johnston. International Regent Elaine Leger installed the new officers immediately following the Mass.

The following officers were installed: Regent: Lori Tomlinson; Vice Regent: Dana Tomlinson ; Honorary Past Regent: Lois Simanski; Financial Secretary: Jennifer Crawford; Recording Secretary: Marjorie Dennis; Treasurer Renee Smith; Scribe: Chris McCloskey; Chancellor: Susanna Tomlinson; Auditors: Theresa Vaughn, Janet Tomlinson, Theresa Riley; Custodian: Kim Moloney; Monitor: Jane Byrne; Banner Bearer: Kathleen Grove; Guide: Linda Yaskow; Guard: Esther Myers.



Loras College Circle #1427 in Iowa Instituted

On Saturday, March 7, 2009, in Rohlman Chapel, 25 young college students proudly took the pledge and became members of Loras College Circle #1427 at Loras College in Iowa.

The Conferral Ceremony and Installation of Officers was led by International Regent Elaine Leger and assisted by International Organizer Leola Myers and Office Manager Sharon Carlo. Members from St. Ann's Circle #751 and Lady of Lourdes Circle #153 in Iowa were also present and assisted on this special day. Members of Loras Knights of Columbus Council #9224 acted as Marshals for the installation of the new officers.

Installed Officers were: Regent: Megan Godfrey; Vice Regent: Dana Disteldorf; Honorary Past Regent: Lyndsay Sullivan; Financial Secretary: Laura Bansley; Recording Secretary: Emily Full; Treasurer: Paula Teig; Scribe: Carolyn Windberg; Chancellor: Cassie Koetz; Auditor: Margaret Witt; Custodian: Liz Kottkamp. Chaplain for the Circle is Rev. John "Padre" Haugen.



The Daughters of Isabella, Circle 959

\$ 6 000 Donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
On March 20th, the Daughters of Isabella, circle 959, donated \$3,000.00 to St. Jude matching the donations collected by the students of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School in Herrin, Il. Pictured are some of the students along with their principle Ms. Cheryl Dryer from Mt. Carmel and Kent and Julie (Nut and Honey) for Z100 Radio and Robbie Cannon, bingo chairman along with some of the folks from Daughters of Isabella to present their check. Please notice that members of our circle are identified by the red shirts. They are Robbie Cannon bingo chairman, Erma Petroski past regent and Jennifer Crespi recording secretary and in the background to the right a member Karen Matuszczak.



"Going Forward in Unity, Friendship and Charity." Host Circle was St. Joachim's Unity Circle #1423. Present for the convention were International Regent Elaine Leger and International Vice Regent Christiane Chagnon, as well as State Chaplain Deacon Karl Welsbacher. Following the meeting conducted by State Regent Yvonne Ritter, a special Memorial Service was held by Deacon Karl for deceased members of the California State Circle. Scrolls containing the names of their deceased Sisters were read and candles were lit. After attendance at Mass at St. Joachim's Church celebrated by Rev. M. Kelly, the installation of the new State Offices was held, followed by a Banquet and musical entertainment, raffle and silent auction drawings. The State Circle was particularly honored with the presence of Bishop Stephen Blaire of the Diocese of Stockton for this first California State Convention.

Next issue is due: January 5th, 2010

Info sent to:

Mrs Géraldine Landry
286 Joan Street
Beresford, N.B.
E2A 2G9.

Or by E-mail at:
landber@nbnet.nb.ca

CALIFORNIA HOLDS FIRST STATE CONVENTION

On June 27, 2009, the California State Circle was proud to hold its first California State Convention at St. Joachim's Parish Hall in Lockeford, CA with over 90 members and State Officers present from the 4 Local Circles: Theme for the convention was: