



# MAINELY *D* of *J* NEWS

Volume 1

December 2011



## *State Regent's Corner*

This is a time of preparation for the coming blessings of joy. What does that mean, you say? Well, it should be a time of cleaning out and dusting off the cobwebs in hopes that company will soon be here. Well those of you who know me real well know that I don't mean real cobwebs and dust bunnies but the kind that clog our heart. Yes, this is the time we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Because, He will bring hope, joy and love. And, with His love we can have peace in our hearts. And, with peace in our hearts, we can have forgiveness. And, with forgiveness we are one step closer to understanding "Unconditional Love."

In these days of uncertainties, unknowing what is to come, where we are headed, what will we be facing? What is happening to our country that was founded on Faith and Christian beliefs? It is ever-changing times we live in and ever challenging to our Faith. We need HIM now more than ever in our lives, so let us open our **Hearts** to His coming as He comes with *Healing, Love, and Hope* for ANEW.

*Jackie Dostie-Smith*

## *A message from our State Chaplain*



Dear Daughters,

At this time of year, I am sure you believe that every charity to which you have ever contributed is sending you an appeal, counting on your good will in this season of giving. Many are very worthy causes, especially for the poor and needy. The challenge is to decide which will get your money and how much.

The prophet Isaiah tells us to have faith in the Lord, not our bank accounts, although some prudence on our part is necessary. Hard choices have to be made, but may we not forget that giving also should include prayer and service.

As Daughters of Isabella, your meetings already include prayer and your deliberations very often lead to service, which does not always involve money. May this season of Advent deepen your commitment to both – prayer and service!

May your advent observances remind you of both, and your Christmas celebrations bring joy to others!

A Blessed Christmas  
*Father Lionel Chouinard*



## *A Christmas Prayer*

Lord, in this holy season of prayer, song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining stars, the song of angels, and for the infant's cry in a lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold His glory, and are bathed in its radiance. Be with us as we consider the mystery of Christmas: a helpless Babe who enters into our fractured world. We kneel before you with shepherds, innkeepers and wise men. Help us to rise with your Grace and blessing. Amen.



# Upcoming Events



## **39<sup>th</sup> Pro-Life March in Washington, DC** Monday, January 23, 2012

Each year, concerned citizens opposed to abortion have gathered at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., to protest the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision and to stand up for respect for all life.

Although it is not possible for this year, the State Circle is looking into making this trip available to Daughters of Isabella and other supporters of life by organizing buses to make the 2013 Pro-Life March in Washington, DC.

We need to take a stand for life and although many of us are unable to attend the march, we can do our share to end abortions from our homes and in our circles by praying for young girls and women who are contemplating ending the life of their unborn child. Our prayers can touch their hearts and give them the courage to consider adoption or decide to raise their child. Either decision will bring many blessings to the parents.

## **Off-year Meeting** May 19, 2011

Knights of Columbus Hall – Lincoln  
Theme: *“Healing Hearts in Unity,  
Friendship, and Charity.”*



*To include memorial service for deceased members, healing hour, and training to consist of fun and informative exercise.*

Encourage your members to attend this Off-year Meeting. This is where it can spark some interest in your members and give them the incentive to take an office or move up.

*“Thus says the Lord...I have heard your prayers and seen your tears. I will heal you.”*

~Isaiah 38:5



## **International Convention** Dearborn, Michigan

August 5-8, 2012

Theme: *“Radiate Your Faith in Friendship”*

Those who wish can stay an extra day and visit the World's largest Christmas Store in Frankenmuth, Michigan!

### **Banquet**

Theme: *“Christmas in Dearborn”*

*There will be a special gift given to those who will attend the banquet. This item will not be available to anyone who has not attended the banquet. This could be a very interesting and fun event!!!*

### **Lodging**

Rooms are \$149 plus tax per night. It can accommodate 1 to 4 persons. For those who want to room together, all registration forms need to be submitted together.

### **Contests & Awards**

Take part in the contest and award programs. Bringing back an award to your circle is a great morale booster and it creates an incentive to continue with the good work already being done and to strive for more.

### **Obligations**

In order to be seated at the convention, you must have met your obligations, such as your Circle being up-to-date with both the International and State Per-capita, along with the obligations that have been voted at State Convention as part of the Standing and Internal Rules, such as...

- Scholarship Fund
- State Regent's Project
- Shared Love
- Religious Retirement

***Donations must be made by your circle for each of the above in order to qualify to be seated at both International and State Conventions.***

## Check Out These Websites...



Maine State Daughters of Isabella website....  
[www.mainedofi.org](http://www.mainedofi.org)

International Daughters of Isabella  
[www.daughtersofisabella.org](http://www.daughtersofisabella.org)

Free Catholic Correspondence Courses  
[www.amm.org](http://www.amm.org)

Catholic Home Study Service is a ministry offering free correspondence courses on the Catholic Faith. It is sponsored by the Vincentian Community and the Religious Information Bureau of the Missouri Knights of Columbus.

It offers the following courses...

- We Believe: A Survey of the Catholic Faith
- We Worship: A Guide to the Catholic Mass
- We Live: To Know, Love, and Serve God
- We Pray: Living in God's Presence
- The Search for Happiness
- A Catholic Guide to the Bible
- The Privilege of Being Catholic
- The Catechism Handbook
- Christ's Mother and Ours

*These courses can be taken individually or with a group that would like to learn more about our Catholic Faith. They offer a wealth of information and equip us to answer the many questions we and others have. Those who have taken these courses have been greatly enriched.*

### **Local Circle Special Projects**

Little Flower Circle # 392 – Millinocket  
Project chairpersons: Sheila Baker, Regent and Linda Oliver

A plaque bearing the names of 39 children and some adults who died too soon as a result of illnesses, accidents or suicides was blessed by Fr. Joel Cyr and hung in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents at St. Martin's church on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Next to the chapel in the lawn area, two heart-shaped flower gardens are located as permanent tributes and remembrance of the children of the parish lost to tragedies and to the losses of the unborn.



## Reminders...

### **YOUTH**

Christiane Chagnon, our International Regent, reminds us that we, as Daughters of Isabella, have pledged to pray for our youth on December 8<sup>th</sup>, asking our Blessed Mother to watch over our youth and to keep them in her gentle care.

### **VOCATIONS**

Let's reach out to our seminarians from the Diocese through prayer and any other way your local circle can offer support. It is greatly appreciated and it gives them the courage to continue in their journey towards priesthood. .

### **MEMBERSHIP**

*What are we doing as a Circle to invite women to join?*

- When you have a special event invite potential new members to join you so they can see what you're all about.
- Publicity is a good way of letting other people know what you're doing and it can spark interest in women to join.
- Host a tea party for potential new members; giving you an opportunity to share what the Daughters of Isabella are all about and at the same time show how you reach out to the youth, the church, community, and members of your circle.

### **SCRAPBOOK PAGES**

This is a great way to show how your circle participates in the four areas that we are committed to serve; namely, youth, church, community, and circle. These beautiful scrapbook pages are given back to your circle and when placed in a binder, the pages become a beautiful part of your circle's history.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

To all circles who have celebrated a special anniversary this year.

# *The Tablecloth*

## *A Christmas Inspirational Story*

A pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, reopened a church in suburban Brooklyn. Excitedly arriving in early October, they saw the opportunities to accomplish something good before them. When they first laid eyes upon the church, they found it to be very run down and in need of much work. They set a goal, though, to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc., and on Dec 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest hit the area, lasting two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home. On the way he noticed a local business having a flea market type sale for charity so he stopped in.

One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a Cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church. By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she said, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. To his astonishment, he found that they were. These

being the initials of the woman. She had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria. The woman could hardly believe it, for the pastor told how he had just acquired the tablecloth.

The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again.

The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return.

One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare at the Tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to the one that his wife had made many years ago in Austria before the war and how could there be two Tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

A stylized logo with the text "Merry Christmas To All" in a cursive, handwritten font. The "M" is large and decorative, and the "To All" is written in a smaller, simpler font at the bottom.