

# CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE MAGAZINE

Winter 2016

**MEMBER APPRECIATION  
EVENT**

**ALL AMERICAN SCHOLAR  
INFORMATION**

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY  
IN THE KITCHEN**

**FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN!**

**115**  
YEARS  
1901-2016

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President/CEO – J. Michael Belz

Dear Member:

On behalf of Catholic Life Insurance, I want to wish all our members a blessed Advent Season. Our cover artwork reminds us that the birth of Jesus Christ is the reason for this holy season.

As we have been blessed, it is only fitting that we remember those who have been a blessing to us. For the 55th consecutive year, Catholic Life presented our priest-members and Branch Spiritual Advisors with a small gift. Additionally, we made donations in 21 dioceses to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

This special season reminds us that our Branches keep the giving spirit of Christmas alive throughout the year. We invite you to turn to page 14 to learn about the Make a Difference Day projects that our members took part in and again on page 19 to see the projects that our Branches have performed over the past few months.

In closing, my family and I wish you a very merry Christmas. We look forward to serving you for many years to come. May God bless you!

Sincerely,

J. Michael Belz  
President/CEO

*Merry Christmas*

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Asst Vice President/Operations

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Asst Vice President/Accounting Manager

WINTER 2016

# CATHOLIC LIFE MAGAZINE



## FEATURES

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### **CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS! WE WANT YOU!** 11

Are you a high school senior thinking about attending college after you graduate? Do you have what it takes to be an All American Scholar? Find out about Catholic Life's college scholarships.

### **JOINING TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE** 14

On Saturday, October 22, millions of people around the nation gathered to participate in Make a Difference Day, a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Learn about what Catholic Life Branches did to reach out to others.

### **BRANCHES IN ACTION** 19

Catholic Life Branches sponsored projects that benefitted hundreds of community programs. We invite you to review a few of the projects that occurred during the fall.

## DEPARTMENTS

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### **FAITH IN ACTION** 10

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Corporate Headquarters: 1635 N.E. Loop 410, San Antonio, Texas 78209 • Mailing Address: P.O. Box 659527, San Antonio, Texas 78265-9527 Phone: (210) 828-9921 • Fax: (210) 828-4629 • Toll Free Number: 1-800-262-CLIU

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Editor: Barbara A. Cheaney • Staff Assistants: Briana Gilmore, Danna Morgan • Designed and Produced by: Lynn Design



## ▶ WATCH FOR 1099S IN YOUR MAILBOX FORMS TO ARRIVE IN LATE JANUARY



Among the credit card bills, post-holiday sales flyers and junk mail that arrive following the first of the year will be a number of letters that members will want to save. These contain the W-2s, 1099s, and other forms that you'll need to file your income tax in mid-April.

Computer software has enabled Catholic Life to issue a 1099 form that is printed on an 8½ x 11 sheet of paper with the form number 1099 printed at the top of the page. To make it easy to identify, the 1099 form comes in a special envelope labeled IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION.

When you receive this envelope, be sure to put it in a safe place with all your other incoming tax documents so you'll be ready when the time comes to fill out income tax forms that are due April 18.



## HELPING EAGLE'S WINGS RETREAT CENTER EXPAND

Agents Gerri Martinez (far left) and Patsy Wiley (far right) help District V Director Sandy King present a donation to Eagle's Wings Executive Director Sherie Zebrowski and Eagle's Wings Center Chaplain Msgr. Elmer Holtman. As you can see in the background, Eagles Wings is undergoing construction to expand their facilities. Currently, 6,000 individuals take part in retreats at the Center each year.

## In Memoriam



### FRANCIS RUCKA

Former Chairman of the Board Francis Rucka of Crosby passed away October 5 following a brief illness. He was 83 years old.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, October 10, 2016 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crosby. Burial followed at Sacred Heart Cemetery.

His wife Shirley survives him as does his son and daughter and two grandchildren.

District VII delegates elected him to serve as their representative on the Board of Directors on August 2, 1992. The same year his fellow Board members elected him to serve as Board Secretary. He was reelected for a second term to the Board in 1996 and was elected Chairman in 1998. He retired from the Board in 2000.

In addition to this Board service, Rucka was the longtime Branch Secretary-Treasurer for the Baytown Branch, serving from 1982 until 2016. He was also a successful Agent, earning the Twelve Apostle Award three times in 1989, 1990 and 2011.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord.*

## CONTACT US



Phone: ..... (210) 828-9921

Toll free: ..... (800) 262-2548

Fax: ..... (210) 828-4629

Website: ..... www.cliu.com

General Email: ..... info@cliu.com

Office Hours: ..... 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Thursday; 8 a.m.–3 p.m. Friday



# FLAG DAY POSTER CONTEST

It's the 240th anniversary of the American Flag.

**Our contest theme this year: Stars and Stripes Forever**

**Draw a picture of your favorite event or person in American history.**

*(You must include the American Flag. Posters that have other pictures drawn on the Flag or have changed its colors will unfortunately be disqualified.)*

**> WHO CAN ENTER?**

Children in grades kindergarten through 5th may enter.

**> WHAT CAN BE ENTERED?**

One original poster no larger than 20" x 20."

**> WHAT MATERIALS CAN BE USED?**

Pencils, ink, paint, watercolors, crayons, fabric, and construction paper can be used. Words, letters, pictures, or other materials from newspapers or magazines may also be used. Posters must be made of poster board or construction paper.

**> WHAT ARE THE DIVISIONS AND THE PRIZES?**

- Division A: K-1st grade
- Division B: 2nd-3rd grade
- Division C: 4th-5th grade

Prizes to be awarded in each division:

First: \$125	Fourth: \$50
Second: \$100	Fifth: \$25
Third: \$75	Sixth: \$15

**> JUDGING**

Judges will use the scoring criteria. Their decisions will be final. All entries become the property of Catholic Life Insurance and will not be returned unless postage accompanies poster. **We dispose of all posters 60 days after the contest.** Winning posters will be published in the *Catholic Life* magazine.

**> SCORING**

Use as a guide in poster planning:

1. **Eye Appeal** ..... 30%  
Does poster attract attention?  
Preparation, neatness, colors
2. **Originality**..... 20%  
Design, slogan, arrangement
3. **Theme**..... 45%  
Does poster stimulate interest?  
Does it carry out the theme?
4. **Identification** .....5%  
Attach entry form or copy of entry form to the back of poster.

**> GENERAL RULES**

1. Entry form must be completed and attached to back of poster. An incomplete and/or illegible form will disqualify entry. **Please have a parent or teacher fill out the entry form.**
2. We suggest mailing your entry in a poster tube which may be found at your local post office or business supply store.
3. The deadline to submit your entries: **May 13, 2017.**  
Send entries to:

Catholic Life Insurance  
 Poster Contest  
 PO Box 659527  
 San Antonio, Texas 78265-9527

**For more information, contact Briana Gilmore at (210) 828-9921 Ext. 141 or email [branch@cliu.com](mailto:branch@cliu.com).**

**ENTRY FORM – PLEASE PRINT**

(Attach to back of poster. Must be complete and legible to qualify.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_



## HONORING LONGTIME MEMBERS



▲ Denise Fisher receives the Golden Certificate Award from Agent Jerome Matula on behalf of her father, William Reineke, who has been a member for 79 years. Mr. Reineke's mother purchased a policy for him in October 1937 when he was just 16 years old.



◀ Agent Mike Dieter presents the Golden Certificate Award to Dorothy Zimmerer, who has been a member for 75 years. In July 1941, Mrs. Zimmerer purchased a policy from Agent Henry Fuhrmann when she was a 19-year-old housewife.

## Giving Thanks to Clergy

For more than 50 years, Catholic Life Insurance has said "thank you" to approximately 200 Archbishops, Bishops and priests with a gift at Christmastime. These individuals, who are members, spiritual advisors and supporters of Catholic Life, receive a small cash gift and a letter of appreciation.

"We are so grateful for everything that these men do for us and the people of their communities," said President J. Michael Belz. "We are so proud to be able to give these gifts every year at Christmas time."

Catholic Life also participates in the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection sending a stipend to the bishop of each diocese where we operate.

We encourage our members to let a priest know how much his service is appreciated.

**You're Invited to Your Annual Branch Social**

**CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE**  
Securing Families' Lives Since 1901

## Your Branch Social Invitation Has a New Look

Look for this postcard for details about your local meeting about three weeks before your Annual Branch Social.

**Tickets  
are limited.  
Act today!**



## **You're invited to join Catholic Life Insurance at these special events. Tickets are free.**

Members in good standing can obtain up to 4 tickets while supplies last to this exciting event:

### ***Dates***

**Monday, March 6, 2017 – San Antonio Spurs vs. Houston Rockets @ San Antonio**

**Saturday, April 29, 2017 – Los Angeles Angels vs. Texas Rangers @ Arlington**

**Friday, June 9, 2017 – Los Angeles Angels vs. Houston Astros @ Houston**

### ***Free Tickets***

Tickets are free, but there is a service and handling fee of \$5 per ticket. We will begin accepting ticket orders on Wednesday, February 1. You can obtain tickets via personal check or credit card. We will only accept orders on checks postmarked January 28 or later and will return checks postmarked before that date.

Members may only request 4 tickets and are limited to 1 event per address per year.

To order your tickets by check, complete and send this form along with your check.

### **Member Appreciation Days**

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets requested \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to Catholic Life Insurance, PO Box 659527, San Antonio, TX 78265-9527.  
To order by credit card, call 1-800-262-2548 during regular business hours.



MERRY

# CHRISTMAS

AND  
*Happy New Year*

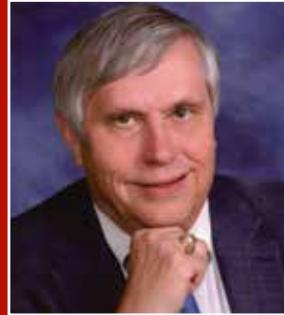
# Top Producers

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

## LEADING AGENCIES



**1. Jimmy Tirres, CLU, LUTCF, FIC**  
San Antonio General Agency  
San Antonio, Texas



**2. Eugene Smart, CLU, MBA, FIC**  
Smart & Associates  
Houston, Texas



**3. David Walker**  
Walker Insurance Agency  
Dallas, Texas

## LEADING PERSONAL PRODUCING GENERAL AGENTS



**1. Michael Scardino, FIC**  
Weimar, Texas



**2. Glenn Snoga**  
Seguin, Texas



**3. Charley Matherne**  
DeRidder, Louisiana

## LEADING REPRESENTATIVES



**1. Elaine Labus**  
Floresville, Texas



**2. Ricky Schroeder**  
Windthorst, Texas



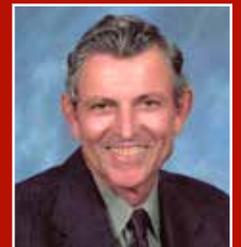
**3. Geraldine Martinez, FIC**  
Bastrop, Texas



**4. Matthew Goff**  
Austin, Texas



**5. Debora Slavinsky**  
Magnolia, Texas



**6. T.J. Sbrusch, FIC**  
Angleton, Texas



**7. Russell Krumnow**  
Temple, Texas



**8. Joe Dominguez, FIC**  
Houston, Texas



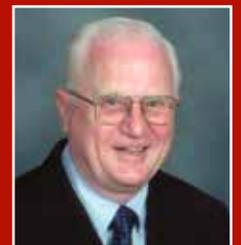
**9. Linda Holubec, FIC**  
College Station, Texas



**10. Charlotte Grobe**  
Fredericksburg, Texas



**11. Mike Dieter**  
Lindsay, Texas



**12. Clarence Moczygmba, FIC**  
Karnes City, Texas



By R. Dennis Best, CLU, ChCF, LLIF, FIC, CSA Vice President/Director of Agencies

## NEW PRODUCT PAIRS LIFE INSURANCE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS COVERAGE

People approaching retirement have spent a lifetime saving and preparing for their retirement years. They want to live comfortably and pass something on to their heirs. It is part of the American dream.

One concern that weighs heavy on our minds is the high cost of a potential chronic illness. Such an illness could result in the need for home health care or a stay in an assisted living facility or nursing home. Even though long-term care insurance has been around for a while, high premiums prevent many from purchasing coverage they may never use.

In early 2017, Catholic Life Insurance will introduce a life insurance plan designed with people like this in mind. We call it Single Premium Whole Life Plus. This plan provides relief should you

become chronically ill and need nursing home, memory loss, assisted living or home health care. It also provides an income tax free inheritance upon death.

Unlike traditional long-term care plans where you pay thousands of dollars each year for coverage you may never use, Single Premium Whole Life Plus has a built-in guarantee that you or your heirs will benefit from this coverage.

Through this plan, Catholic Life will pay one of the following:

- A death benefit; or
- A Chronic Illness Benefit plus the remaining death benefit.

Individuals between 40-79 years of age who have not been hospitalized or had major health concerns within the past year can apply for Single Premium Whole Life Plus.

Call your agent or the Home Office for more details.

### TAX -DEFERRED ANNUITIES • IRAs • ROLLOVERS

## Do Your Long Term & Retirement Savings Plans Stack Up?

# 3.25%\* APY

\*Includes Current Yield + 1.25% First Year Additional Interest. Interest rates are subject to change. Minimum guaranteed rate is 1.50%.



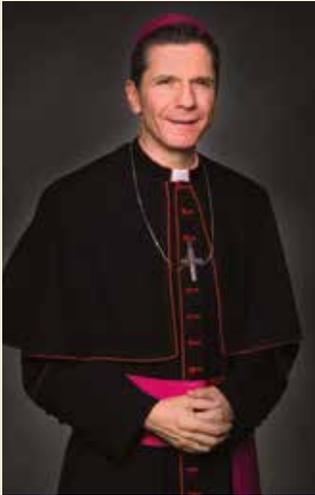
For Information Call Your Local Agent or the Home Office:

## 1-800-262-2548

### CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

Home Office: San Antonio, TX #ASU 12.16

# Faith IN ACTION



**MOST REVEREND  
GUSTAVO GARCÍA-SILLER**  
CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE  
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR

For many, the Christmas message of “Peace on Earth” plants the seed of hope that the New Year will be transformed with new vitality that comes from Christ’s peace. It is in the proclamation of the angels, “Peace on, earth peace to those on whom his favor rests”, that our hope is born. May we heal the confrontation and rancor of this past year; find solutions that will stop the violence that continues in Syria and elsewhere around the world; and that we will be motivated to find answers that will help to resolve the racial discord and lessen the poverty that divides us with fear and mistrust, striking at the heart of our unity as a people.

As we stand at the door of the stable in Bethlehem we can hear Pope Francis’ declaration of hope pouring light into the darkness of the Christmas night; “Where God is born, hope is born. Where God is born, peace is born. And where peace is born, there is no longer room for hatred and for war.” This message does not confine Peace of Christ to a place or time. No, it lives in the hearts of believers anywhere the good news of Christmas Joy is proclaimed and heard.

We are called to be instruments of peace in the world, helping those who are lost in the dark shadows of misplaced priorities encounter the real truth of Christ’s coming into the world. I fear that the innocent image of the baby Jesus lying in a manger might cause us to miss the awesome message of Christmas. The babe in the manger is the precursor of the reality that He will nourish the world through his presence in the Eucharist, strengthening us to be his missionary disciples united with all those in need by our hope for God’s mercy and love. In St. Paul’s letter to the Philippians we read; “If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.”

There is much to be done to heal, to forgive, and to unite us in Jesus’ name. In their proclamation to the shepherds and to all men and women of good will, for all time, the angels told us, “Do not be afraid.” In this heavenly Christmas greeting given to us by God as he entered into human history, we would be given the power to shape the history of all mankind as we are led by his Holy Spirit. Through the intercession of St. Joseph and the Virgin Mary, let us rejoice in God’s great love for us, with hope for the year to come. I wish you a Blessed Christmas.



## 35 College Scholarships Now Available from Catholic Life!

### GOAL

To award 35 non-renewable college or trade school scholarships worth \$1,000 each to graduating seniors who are Catholic Life Insurance members.

"Like" us on Facebook to receive instant updates on the All American Scholarship.



### ELIGIBILITY

Students must plan to enroll full-time in a public or private college/university or trade school for the Fall 2017 semester. The \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to deserving students to help offset the cost of post-secondary education.

### CRITERIA

All applicants:

- ▷ Must be a Catholic Life Insurance member in good standing at time of application. Members insured under the Family Plan do not qualify.
- ▷ Must maintain membership during the scholarship period.
- ▷ Must be a graduating high school senior attending a university, college or accredited trade school in the fall.
- ▷ Must have at least a 3.0 grade point average on a scale of 4.0.
- ▷ Must display leadership skills.
- ▷ Must be an active volunteer.
- ▷ Must complete the application, submit an essay, submit one letter of recommendation and provide a photo suitable for publication.
- ▷ Executive Officers' and Directors' children are not eligible.

### PRESENTATION

- ▷ Payment will be made directly to the school and not the student.
- ▷ Funds must be used by Dec. 31, 2017.
- ▷ News releases will be sent to local newspapers.
- ▷ Winners will be announced in *Catholic Life Magazine*.

**For more information, contact the Communications Department  
at (210) 828-9921 or by email at [branch@cliu.com](mailto:branch@cliu.com)**

# All American Scholar Award Application

Please type or print all information. Must be received by March 1, 2017.

**Student must be a Catholic Life Insurance Member.**

Certificate #: \_\_\_\_\_

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last 4 SS # \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Father's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

Local Newspaper(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\*This is our primary form of communication with applicants. Please provide an email address that you check frequently, as you will receive important notification from us regarding your application status via email. We do not share this information with any other company, and we do not send spam.

## COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY/TRADE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Intended School for Fall Semester \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(If you are applying for more than one school, please indicate your top choice above.)

## HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Class Size \_\_\_\_\_ Cumulative GPA (4.0 scale) \_\_\_\_\_

## SIGNATURES

I hereby apply for a Catholic Life All American Scholar Award and acknowledge that I am a member in good standing. I attest that all of the information above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**(See next page for additional information.)**

# All American Scholarship, continued

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

On a separate sheet of paper (typed and double spaced), list volunteer hours for service activities. Include name of organization, activity or event, dates of participation, and total hours worked.

## EXTRACURRICULAR/OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES/EMPLOYMENT

On a separate sheet of paper (typed and double spaced), list organizations/activities in which you participated during your high school years. Examples could include student government, school newspaper, athletics or band. Include leadership positions. Also list all employers, job/type of work and average number of hours worked per week.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. You will need one letter of recommendation. Ask your recommender to give the letter to you in a sealed envelope with his or her signature written across the seal. You are responsible for submitting the sealed recommendation with your application. Please ask that a daytime phone number be included in or with the letter.
2. Submit a 250-word or less essay (typed and double spaced) describing the volunteer experience you found to be the most meaningful. Explain why you chose this particular experience for your topic. What did you learn about yourself and about others? How has this experience changed you, changed how you interact with others, changed your community? Print your name and Social Security Number at the top of each page.
3. Include an official high school transcript.
4. Include a recent photo that is either professionally developed or sent via email. Photos printed on copy paper and/or from an at-home printing device will not be accepted. Digital files (jpeg or tif) are acceptable, and must be at least 2x2 inches and 300 dpi. All materials become property of Catholic Life Insurance. If emailing photos, send to [branch@cliu.com](mailto:branch@cliu.com). **Please do not use staples to attach application materials.**

## MAILING INFORMATION

### TRADITIONAL MAIL:

Catholic Life Insurance  
Attn: All American Scholar Award  
P.O. Box 659527  
San Antonio, Texas 78265-9527

### OVERNIGHT DELIVERY:

Catholic Life Insurance  
Attn: All American Scholar Award  
1635 NE Loop 410, Suite 100  
San Antonio, Texas 78209-1694

**Completed applications must be received by March 1, 2017.  
No exceptions will be made.**

**For information call: (210) 828-9921 or email: [branch@cliu.com](mailto:branch@cliu.com)**



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD

Millions of people across the United States rallied together in volunteer activities for “Make A Difference Day,” our nation’s largest recognized day of service. Many of our Catholic Life Branches, who perform thousands of hours of volunteer service annually, celebrated the day by organizing special projects in their parish and community.

### Greater Houston

#### Helping the Homeless

The **Houston, North Central Houston, and Northwest Houston Branches** assemble hygiene kits to be given to the homeless in the city. These kits include items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, and soap.



#### Celebrating All Souls Day

Father George shows volunteers where to plant flowers in the St. George Prayer Garden. The volunteers are members of the **George West Branch** and the Dragon Slayers youth group.



#### Cleaning the Cemetery

The **Castoville Branch** gets help from St. Louis Religious Education students and the St. Louis Cemetery Board to prepare the local cemetery for All Souls Day Mass.



***Celebrating All Souls Day***

Joined by the youth, teachers and parents of CCE and EDGE, the **Frelsburg Branch** placed flowers on the graves in Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Cemetery in celebration of All Souls Day.



***Comforting Children in Need***

The **Floresville Branch** partners with the South Texas Children's Alliance and Sacred Heart Catholic Church to collect the stuffed animals, baby blankets, and books pictured here to bring comfort to children in need.



***Honoring our Law Enforcement***

A police officer shakes hands with students while attending a police appreciation breakfast hosted by St. Mary's Catholic School and the **Gainesville Branch**. The students and teachers helped the Branch prepare and serve breakfast to officers during their shift change at the Gainesville Police Headquarters.



***Strudels for School Fundraiser***

Agent Wendy Janak and her family join the **Hallettsville Branch** at the Sacred Heart Family Center to make and bake strudels as part of an annual fundraiser for the Sacred Heart Home & School Association. More than 2,200 strudels were baked in one day.



***Celebrating Dia de los Muertos***

A table is set up for the families of Holy Trinity Catholic Church to display photos and mementos of their deceased loved ones during a special celebration of All Souls Day. The **Hill Country Branch** gave each family a rose prior to a special Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony, and afterwards everyone enjoyed food and fellowship.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD



### **Remembering the Forgotten**

The **Kosciusko Branch**, CCD students and parish members gather together to clean up the neglected graves at St. Ann Catholic Cemetery and to make it a beautiful garden for all who come to visit their loved ones.



### **Bingo at the Nursing Home**

**Pep Branch** President Nancy Demel assists residents of the Lynnwood Nursing Home during a Bingo party hosted by the Branch. This event is a way to bring joy to the seniors in the community.



### **Stocking Food Pantry Shelves**

The Sacred Heart Religious Education 10th grade class joins **Muenster Branch** Officers to stock the shelves at the Sacred Heart Food Pantry with food purchased by the Branch. This project helps to replenish the food pantry around the holidays when it is much needed.



### **Trick-or-Treat for Less Fortunate**

The **Pilot Point Branch** and local 4-H Group pose with canned goods they collected during a special "trick or treat" in the community for donations to benefit the Shepherd's Storehouse.



### **Helping Those in Need**

The St. Cornelius CCD Confirmation Class joins the **Panna Maria Branch** on their Thanksgiving Food Drive. They worked together to collect and sort baskets of canned food and frozen turkeys that were given out to the needy in the parish for Thanksgiving.



**Food Drive for the Less Fortunate**

Volunteers with the **Poth Branch** amass the donations received during their annual food drive for the less fortunate of their community.



**Making Baby Blankets**

Young volunteers from the CCD classes and youth group, along with their teachers and parents, join the **Port Arthur Branch** and Ladies Crochet Group to make fleece baby blankets for the Hope Women's Resource Center of Beaumont. They also collected baby supplies to donate. More than 100 people of all ages – including one family with four generations- participated in this event.



**Caring for Animals**

The **San Angelo Branch** partners with Holy Angels Catholic School and the Humane Society to collect pet food donations, while a special blessing of the animals took place at Holy Angels Catholic Church.



**Everyone's A Winner**

The residents of Karnes City Nursing and Rehab Center pose with the prizes they received during a Bingo party hosted by the **Cestohowa Branch**.



**Coming Together to Clean Up**

The EDGE youth group and cemetery committee lend their hands to the **St. Lawrence Branch** cemetery clean-up project, which involved raking under pine trees, cleaning the statue of Mother Mary, and picking up trash throughout the area.



**Serving at Faith Mission**

The **Scotland Branch** and St. Boniface Catholic Church parishioners serve lunch to the staff and clients at Faith Mission in Wichita Falls. The Branch also made a donation to Faith Mission to help with their costs.



## MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY NATIONAL DAY OF DOING GOOD



### **Creating "Blessing" Bags**

St. Mary's Youth Group volunteers help the **Ballinger Branch** make "Blessing Bags" for the homeless.



### **Youth Remember Faithful Departed**

Young volunteers give their all while improving the grounds at the Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery. Several community groups joined the **Yorktown Branch** to pull weeds, pick up trash, and place silk flowers on graves in need of attention.



### **Flowers for the Graves**

The Notre Dame junior and senior high school religion classes team up with the **Wichita Falls Branch** on a clean-up project at Sacred Heart Cemetery in anticipation of All Souls Day, where they also placed flowers on the graves of the priest and nuns buried there.



### **Serving Lunch at St. Francis**

St. Francis Xavier Church parishioners enjoy their First Wednesday Luncheon in the St. Thomas Hall. Lunch was prepared and served by the **Stonewall Branch**, local homeschoolers, and the St. Rose Society.



### **Trunk or Treat?**

Agent Steven Skarpa poses with young member Christopher "Lane" Scott during the **Baytown Branch** "Trunk or Treat" event. The Branch hosted this event in the St. Joseph the Worker Church parking lot to give 2,000 children a safe place to trick-or-treat on Halloween.

# Branches in ACTION



## Renovating the Rectory

Members of St. Patrick's Catholic Church youth group paint the baseboards of the rectory as part of a renovation project hosted by the **Brady Branch**. Other duties performed throughout the day included cleaning out cabinets, washing curtains, dusting, and cleaning the bathrooms.



## Celebrating Altar Servers

After their training at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 41 altar servers enjoy a hot dog and hamburger cookout courtesy of the **Gainesville Branch**, Father John, Deacon Dave, and Deacon Jerome.



## Cleaning the Choir Loft

The Holy Trinity Youth Choir poses for a group photo after helping the **Falls City Branch** with a special project to organize their choir loft for the school year.



## Donuts After Mass

The **Burlington Cameron Branch** gets help from parish youth to serve donuts, coffee and juice after morning Mass at St. Joseph Catholic Church.



## Rewarding Years of Service

**Frelsburg Branch** Officers present a gift to Rev. Wayne Flagg in appreciation of his 21 years of service as their Spiritual Advisor.



## Supporting the Food Bank

Vice President Grace Godinho of the St. Vincent de Paul Society receives a donation for their food bank from **Brazosport Branch** President Anthony Hlavaty.



**Appreciating our Priests**

Life Teen members help **Hereford Branch** Officers with their Priest Appreciation Breakfast. They cooked and served breakfast for St. Anthony Catholic Church parishioners to raise donations benefitting Seminarian Burse and Father Tony Neusch.



**Taking Home Old Glory**

Becci Mears wins a new United States Flag during the annual **Hill Country Branch** social, which was presented to her by representatives Case Hollub, Theresa Phillips, Patsy Wiley, and Sandy King.



**Honoring our Flag**

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church parishioners and area veterans participate in a Memorial Day Flag ceremony hosted by the **La Coste-Devine Branch** and local Boy Scout troop. Damaged Flags were burned for proper disposal, and new Flags donated by the Branch were raised during the ceremony.



**Rejoicing in our Acolytes**

More than 40 acolytes enjoy pizza and a fun day at Wonderland Park in Amarillo as part of an altar server celebration event sponsored by the **Nazareth Branch**.



**Supporting Catholic Schools**

Father Martin Leopold accepts a donation from the **Northeast San Antonio Branch** for the St. Peter Prince of the Apostles Catholic School. (Onlookers included Elaina Satsky, Becky Finley, Tom Stuebben, Monroe Frerich, Kathy May, and Janet Frerich.)



**School Receives New Flag**

During the Honor Roll Assembly, Alvin Hollas of the **Northwest Houston Branch** presents St. Jerome Catholic School with a new United States Flag.

# Branches in ACTION



## Gifting the Stars and Stripes

The **Richmond Rosenberg Branch** gifts a new Flag to St. Michael's Catholic Church in Needville. This was presented to Father Marty Pham in celebration of Flag Day.



## Supporting our Firefighters

**Panna Maria Branch** Officers present a donation to the Karnes City Volunteer Fire Department to help fund the purchase of new equipment.



## Supporting ACTs

**Port Arthur Branch** President Val Fey presents an ACTs retreat scholarship check to Fay Sherman of the Port Arthur ACTs Core Team. The donation covers the full cost for a retreatant to attend an ACTs retreat.



## Remembering our Seniors

The local Leo Club helps the **Pleasanton Branch** assemble and distribute more than 50 gift bags to the residents of Argent Court Assisted Living in Jourdanon. The residents enjoyed receiving their gifts and visiting with the youth and adults who participated in this project.



## Feeding Local Families

Volunteers with the Miles youth group, CCD students, Lutheran Church, Ministerial Alliance, and St. Thomas Church meet up with the **Rowena Branch** at the Miles Food Bank and Pantry to organize food baskets that were later distributed to the needy families in the community.



## Volunteering at Vacation Bible School

The **St. Lawrence Branch** serves hotdogs and refreshments to the record 84 children attending Vacation Bible School at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. More than 50 volunteers came together to make this event a huge success.



### Holding the Annual Social

Branch Officers pose for a picture at the **Selma Converse Branch** annual social held at the Bexar Social Hall in San Antonio. (Pictured from left: Vice President Susan Kneupper, Vice President Kevan Friesenhahn, former District III Director Gladys Haecker, President Janet Friesenhahn, and Secretary-Treasurer Britney Coppedge.)



**Supporting St. P.J.'s Children's Home Southwest Branch** Officers Barbara Dietrich and Juanita Criado met with Vice President of Programs, Mr. Rey Acosta, to accept a donation to St. Peter/St. Joseph's Children's Home in San Antonio, a safe and loving refuge for children on their journey to healing and wholeness.

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# Cheers to the New Year!

We can't wait for 2017! Ring in the New Year with these fun recipes and warm wishes submitted by our members.

## New Year's Cake

Stir together golden dreams of hope, add a cup of New Year's light. Catch flakes of Heaven's drifting snow to make the mixture pure and white. Add to it a stirring of Angel's wings bearing joy, love, and inspiration. Blend into the mix a prayer of hope to God for the souls of every nation. Frost your cake with loving kindness, and then to make it especially nice -- Give a large serving to all the world; add peace on earth with every slice.

*Lillian Kiolbassa  
San Antonio, Texas*

## Party Bread

1 loaf frozen bread, thawed  
1 lb. Owens hot sausage  
2 eggs  
2 tbsp. chopped parsley  
Pinch of oregano  
1 tsp. garlic powder  
¼ cup Parmesan cheese  
1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Fry sausage, drain, crumble, and let cool. Add beaten eggs, parsley, oregano, garlic powder, and parmesan cheese to meat mixture, mixing well. On lightly floured surface, roll thawed bread into a rectangle about 12X9". Spread sausage mixture over bread evenly. Roll up like jelly roll. Pinch edges together. Bake 40-45 minutes at 350 degrees on ungreased baking sheet. When done, brush with butter.

*Rubie Debord  
Hallettsville, Texas*

## Fire Crackers

1 box saltine crackers  
1½ cups oil  
2 tbsp. crushed red pepper  
1 pkg. Ranch dressing, dry

In a large Ziploc bag, add the oil, peppers and dry dressing mix. Shake until dissolved. Add crackers and flip every 15-30 minutes until the crackers are thoroughly coated. The longer you flip them the better the crackers will taste. Store in an airtight container.

*Hailey Kutac  
Weimar, Texas*

## Good Luck Black Eyed Pea Dip

4 cans black eyed peas, drained and washed  
3-5 small canned jalapenos, chopped  
1 tbsp. canned jalapeno juice  
½ medium onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2 small jars Kraft Old English cheddar cheese  
¼ lb. (1 stick) melted butter  
1 tbsp. chives, chopped (if desired)

Add the black eyed peas, jalapenos and juice, onion, chives and garlic in a large crock pot. Mix well, mashing the peas as you go.

Combine together the butter and cheese, and add to the pea mixture in the crock pot. Mix well.

Heat in the crock pot on a low setting for two hours, until the pea mixture is warm throughout.

*Catherine Huebner  
Schulenburg, Texas*



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We would like to thank all of those who share their favorite recipes with us, so that we may in turn, share them with the entire base of our members and their families, our agents, our branches, and our own families.

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