



The Blessing of Membership

A Catholic Daughters Prayer Service

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This service may be used for any CDA gathering. It is suggested that you set the tone by playing a song of friendship after members are settled and before beginning the service. Suggestions: "Friend Medley" by Anthem Lights; "That's What Friends Are For" by Dionne Warwick; "There You'll Be" by Faith Hill; or any other friendship/sisterhood themed song. Invite as many members as possible to participate and take the parts marked READER.

LEADER:

Loving Father, Thank You for the blessings You have given us: our life, our family, our friends, our membership in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, these sisters that mean so much. To have other women we can connect with, share our faith with, and share our hearts with, is a unique and precious gift.

You have given us a family of sisters to pray with and to play with; to worship with and to worry with; upon whom we can rely and upon whose shoulders we sometimes cry.

Lord, we ask You to bless all Catholic Daughters gathered here today. Keep us faithful to the motto of our Order, "Unity and Charity," and faithful to the light, life and love given to us through Your Church, that we may serve You and the members of Your diverse and wonderful family generously. May Your light shine from us, Your love animate us and Your Spirit move through us in service of all.

May we always remember to keep balance in our lives, and in our courts, by faithfully striving to participate in each spoke of the Circle of Love: Education, Family, Leadership, Legislation, Quality of Life, Spiritual Enhancement and Youth. Realizing that each has value and that by committing our time, talent and treasure to everyone of them, we fulfill our duties as members of this great Order.

Help us to remember that the Catholic Daughters of the Americas is composed of all types of women, all of whom are children of God—our Courts will be filled, if we fill them; they will do great work, if we work; they will make generous gifts to many causes if we are generous; they will bring other women into our fellowship, if we bring them.

Catholic Daughters will be an organization of loyalty, love, faith and noble spirit, if it's members, who make it what it is, are filled with those qualities. Therefore, with the help of God, we dedicate ourselves to the task of being all that we can be so that our Order continues to contribute to the benefit of Catholic womanhood, and that it may spread Unity and Charity among all men and women.

READER 1:

Lord, we gathered here know of the many blessings of membership in this great organization, our desire is to grow the sisterhood, welcome other women to our fold, share with them these wonderful blessings. May we never forget to be good examples of holy women, Catholic Daughters and faithful friends by letting other know and see the following truths to which I ask you to reply:
We thank You Lord for this blessing.

READER 2:

Catholic Daughters is a place where we, as members can truly serve God as we serve His Church. So many of us act as lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, choir members, religious education teachers, sacristans, altar servers, and so many other ministers in our parishes. Serving You Lord, and Your church feeds our souls. In Unity & Charity: *We thank You Lord for this blessing.*

READER 3:

Catholic Daughters is a place where we, as members can truly serve God as we serve His people. We serve in soup kitchens, we deliver meals on wheels, we assist at pantries and in parish outreach programs, we drive others to church, to doctor's appointments to shop, to vote. Serving Your people, oh Lord, feeds our hearts. In Unity & Charity:
We thank You Lord for this blessing.

READER 4:

Catholic Daughters is a place where we can truly serve God while we enhance our spiritual life. How many varied opportunities we have: prayer services and chaplets, rosaries and songs, litanies and masses. Our membership in CDA has given so many of us the opportunity to learn more about the lives of the saints, the history of the Church, the role of the Apostles, the depth and richness of varied prayers and spiritual traditions. In Unity & Charity:
We thank You Lord for this blessing.

READER 5:

Catholic Daughters is a place where can truly serve God as we improve our own skills. As members of CDA, so many of us have learned or improved talents: accounting, writing, public speaking, broadcasting, compromising, leading. Improving ourselves feeds our self esteem. In Unity & Charity:
We thank You Lord for this blessing.

READER 6:

Catholic Daughters is a place where we can truly serve God as we expand our horizons and visit so many of the wonderful places throughout our country and beyond, to experience the truly "catholic" church, see the beauty of the natural world God created, and meet a diversity of women and clergy that have enriched our lives. In Unity & Charity:
We thank You Lord for this blessing.

READER 7:

Catholic Daughters is a place where we can truly serve God and our own need to meet like-minded women. As we serve, pray, learn and lead Lord, one of the best blessings of membership in CDA is displayed right here: the friendship, the mentors, the sisterhood. Serving with, learning with, praying with and playing with other Catholic women, as devoted to the church and to our faith as we are fills a void that no other relationship can. Especially for this blessing, In Unity & Charity:
We thank You Lord for this blessing.

LEADER:

Father, grant us the strength and vitality of Your own life within us, that we may accomplish well the mission You have given us and we have committed to as Catholic Daughters: to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all.

READER 1:

Father, please continue to bless all members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, help us to know when to speak and when to be quiet. As it says in Proverbs 21:23, "Watch your words and hold your tongue; you'll save yourself a lot of grief."

READER 2:

God, sustain each member's passion for serving their courts, their states, their church and their community the way we are instructed in Romans 12:11, "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

READER 3:

Lord, give all members peace when faced with difficulties; help them to remember the words of St. Paul to the Colossians in 3:15, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."

READER 4:

God, give us all words of wisdom as we speak to others, lead our meetings, guide our members and invite new women to join us. For Psalm 49:3, tells us "My mouth will speak words of wisdom."

READER 5:

Jesus, we ask You to give each member times of rest and renewal. For as Jesus says in Matthew 6:31, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

READER 6:

Father, give us all the energy and desire to complete all projects and undertakings of our courts, states and the national order. As it says in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

READER 7:

Lord, protect all members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas from illness, from distress, from worldliness; Let us truly believe what is stated in 2 Thessalonians 3:3, "...the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."

LEADER:

Let us pray that God, who is love, will enkindle our hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit, to give us an fierce love for others, like Christ's love for us. Blessed are You, Lord, God of mercy, who through Your Son gave us a marvelous example of charity and the great commandment of unity in our love for one another.

ALL:

O Blessed Virgin Mary, beloved Patroness of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, we pledge to you our love and fidelity. As you have guided and watched over us in the past, we humbly ask you to intercede for us, asking that our Catholic Daughter sisters will grow in faith—in love—and in numbers so that our countless works of charity can continue.

Amen.

(If permitted and possible, end the service by sharing a sign of peace and friendship with one another; you may also wish to play another hymn or song of friendship at this time.)