



COURT COMPTON # 942  
Compton, CA  
"In Unity & Charity"

## MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Vol. MMXXVIII Issue 14

### MISSION STATEMENT

Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives 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.

#### CDA MEETINGS

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Where: OLV Annex or Cafeteria  
519 E. Palmer St., Compton, CA

#### CDA ROSARY

When: 3<sup>RD</sup> Wednesday of Month

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: ZOOM  
Meeting Id: 837 9698 8058  
Passcode: 825419

#### JCDA MEETINGS

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Where: OLV Annex or Cafeteria  
519 E. Palmer St., Compton, CA

[www.compton942.org](http://www.compton942.org) | [www.californiacatholicdaughters.org](http://www.californiacatholicdaughters.org) | [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)

#### Court email address: [infocdacompton@gmail.com](mailto:infocdacompton@gmail.com)

|   |  |                           |              |
|---|--|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>REGENT:</b> BONITA CARTER            | 1021 W. 136 <sup>th</sup> St.  | Compton, CA 90222         | 213-507-7362 |
| <b>VICE REGENT:</b> ALICIA JETER        | 1502 E. Carson St. #71   | Carson, CA 90745          | 310-667-2395 |
| <b>REC. SEC:</b> LINDA WILSON-DAVIS     | 1456 E. Philadelphia St. #99   | Ontario, CA 91761         | 323-326-6167 |
| <b>FIN. SEC:</b> ROSA CADENA            | 3002 Clarendon Ave.  | Huntington Park, CA 90255 | 323-819-9374 |
| <b>TREASURER:</b> PATTY GUTIERREZ       | 213 Willow Ave. #A   | Compton, CA 90221         | 323-719-3118 |
| <b>NEWSLETTER:</b> KAREN JONES          | 308 S. Mayo Ave.   | Compton, CA 90221         | 310-344-6803 |
| <b>CHAPLAIN:</b> FR. GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ | 519 E. Palmer St   | Compton, CA 90221         |              |
| <b>DIST. DEPUTY:</b> CLARA HARRIS       | <a href="mailto:Claraharris15@ca.rr.com">Claraharris15@ca.rr.com</a> |                           |              |

### REGENT'S MAY MESSAGE

Dear ladies, the Catholic Church celebrates the entire month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and spiritual mother of all. During the month of May celebrations include a ceremony in church where children place a crown of roses on Mary's head. I remember being given that honor when I was in elementary school at St. Leo's. To this day it remains a beautiful memory.

"There is only one model for you, Mary: the woman of fidelity, the one who did not understand what was happening to her but obeyed. The one who, as soon as she knew what her cousin needed took off [to help her], the Virgin of Promptness. The one who escaped as a refugee in a foreign country to save the life of her son," Pope Francis said during an April 2014 message to 20,000 young people gathered in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for a regional youth day.

Finally, the most important thing that you can do is to pray the rosary everyday during the month of May. To honor our Blessed Mother of perpetual help. Please join your sisters the third wednesday of this month at 7pm for the rosary. A link will be sent to everyone that week.

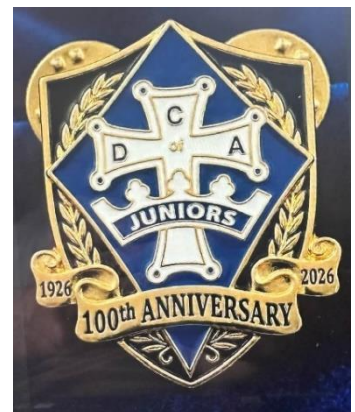
*Bonita Carter, Regent*

## SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT HAPPENED IN APRIL and MAY

Southern CA Retreat held on April 25, 2026 at The Santiago Retreat Center in Silverado, CA. Deacon Tim Myers, CA Spiritual Advisor was joined by Fr. Cleopas Nsom, S.T., Associate Pastor Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church for spiritual presentation. Afternoon guest speakers were Cheri Ballinger, Actor, Producer & Inspirational Speaker and Dr. Lois Lee, Founder & CEO, Children of the Night. Thank you Worthy State Secretary, Yvette Manard and the CDA CA State Board!



**Junior Catholic Daughters (JCDA) Court Mother Lupita**  
Prayers asked for our 2 chaperones and 5 JCDA Members as they journey to St. Charles, Louisiana to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the JCDA from June 9-12th.



JCDA Court Mother Lupita participated in the Our Lady of Victory School's Fiesta. A fun day of games, food, entertainment and fun. Thank you JCDA Advisor, Yesenia for setting up the game and our Juniors for staffing.



**Congratulations to CDA Court Compton's #942 Education Essay Scholarship winners.**

The Essay theme, Least of These Lifting Other Up (Matthew 25:40)

1<sup>st</sup> place, \$1000 Ruby (not pictured)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$300 Emma

3<sup>rd</sup> Place -\$200 Victoria

4<sup>th</sup> Place - \$100- Jayleen



Left to right, Principal Wilcox, Emma, Victoria and Jayleen

**COURT NEWS**

Bonita Carter, Regent

[www.compton942.org](http://www.compton942.org)

**Bonita's theme: "Stand firm and in your faith, Let all that you do be done in love. "  
(1 Corinthians 16:13-14)**

**CDA COURT WHITTIER #519 WOMEN'S RETREAT**

When: Saturday, May 10, 2026

Where: Smith Hall, St. Mary's of the Assumption Church  
7215 Newlin Ave.  
Whittier, CA 90602

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Cost: \$25.00

Contact: Vivian Bautista-Herrera @ (562) 639-9620

**CDA COURT OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE #2499**

When: Saturday, May 16, 2026

Where: Our Lady of the Desert Hall  
18386 Corwin Rd.  
Apple Valley, CA

Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Cost: \$12.00

Contact: Gina Greear @ (760) 963-5571

Speaker: Dr. Mary Ruth Hackett

**CDA COURT OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY #1462 AFTERNOON TEA  
BENEFITTING REFUGE PREGNANCY CENTER**

When: Saturday, May 16, 2026

Where: OLPH Paris Hall  
82470 Bliss Street, Indio, CA 92201

Time: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

RSVP: Reservations required by May 11, 2026 -- Email: [CDAindio@gmail.com](mailto:CDAindio@gmail.com)

Cost: FREE ADMISSION

Please bring donations of new baby items or monetary to benefit Refuge Pregnancy Center  
Garden Tea Party attire & Hats encouraged

**CDA COURT #942 MOTHER'S DAY CROWNIG OF MARY**

When: May 17, 2026

Where: OLV  
519 E. Palmer St.  
Compton, CA 90221

Time: 9:00 am -- CDA Members will process in with roses to crown Mary

**CDA COURT #942 MEETING**

When: May 17, 2026

Where: OLV Annex  
519 E. Palmer St.  
Compton, CA 90221

Time: 10:30 am

**CDA ROSARY**

When: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

Where: Zoom - Meeting ID: 837 9698 8058  
Passcode: 825419

Time: 7:00 pm

Leader: Jacqueline Dunn

Intention: **THAT EVERYONE MIGHT HAVE FOOD**

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

**CDA CT. COMPTON CELEBRATION LUNCHEON FOR FR. NSOM**

When: Saturday, May 23, 2026

Where: Black Angus Steakhouse  
Lakewood Mall

Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$40.00 per person

RSVP: Yvette Manard @ 562-400-8079 or Patty Gutierrez @ 323-719-3118

**JCDA COURT MOTHER LUPITA MEETING**

When: May 24, 2026

Where: OLV Annex  
519 E. Palmer St.  
Compton, CA 90221

Time: 10:30 am

**SAVE THE DATE: VIEJAS BUS TRIP**

When: Saturday, June 6, 2026

Where: Viejas Casino & Outlet Mall

Time: 7:00 AM – OLV Parking Lot

Cost: \$35.00 per person

**SAVE THE DATE: CDA CT. COMPTON #942 TEA**

When: Saturday, June 13, 2026

Where: OLV Cafeteria  
519 E. Palmer St., Compton, CA 90221

Time: 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

**SAVE THE DATE: COURT ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM #2658 – “CHRISTMAS IN JULY”**

When: Saturday, July 18, 2026

Where: St. John Chrfysostom Parish Hall  
546 E. Florence Ave., Inglewood, CA 90301

Time: 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

**SAVE THE DATE: CDA 61<sup>ST</sup> BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

When: July 22 – 26, 2026

Where: Coralville Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center  
300 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Coralville, Iowa

## STATE NEWS

Lorine Bakowsky, State Regent

[www.Californiacatholicdaughters.org](http://www.Californiacatholicdaughters.org)

Lorine's theme: "Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.  
Proverbs 16:3

### CA STATE REGENT OFFICE HOURS

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month (only exception is in January, office hours are Jan 8, 2026)

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89702138529?pwd=NhOuZl10TM7BQ3X0INsLaW0uEUKIFP.1>

Meeting ID: 897 0213 8529 Passcode: 629254

### THE THREE CALIFORNIA RETREATS

Northern CA Retreat on April 11, 2026 at The Cathedral of Christ the Light in Oakland, CA. Father Erik Villa, National Chaplain and CA Spiritual Advisor, Deacon Tim Myers celebrated mass. Northern CA CDA members enjoyed the retreat program, craft workshops and fellowship. Thank you Worthy State Regent, Lorine Bakowsky and the CDA CA State Board!



Central CA Retreat held on April 19, 2026 at St. Rita Catholic Church in Tulare, CA. Rev. Gonzalo Siller-Ramirez, celebrate mass with CDA retreat attendees. Central CA CDA members enjoyed the retreat spiritual presented by Deacon Tim Myers, CA Spiritual Advisor and workshops. Thank you Worthy 1st State Vice Regent, Sheri Kanagawa and the CDA CA State Board!

Southern CA Retreat held on April 25, 2026 at The Santiago Retreat Center in Silverado, CA. Deacon Tim Myers, CA Spiritual Advisor was joined by Fr. Cleopas Nsom, S.T., Associate Pastor Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church for spiritual presentation. Afternoon guest speakers were Cheri Ballinger, Actor, Producer & Inspirational Speaker and Dr. Lois Lee, Founder & CEO, Children of the Night. Thank you Worthy State Secretary, Yvette Manard and the CDA CA State Board!



**NATIONAL NEWS**  
**Susan Moné, National Regent**  
[www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)

**Susan's theme: A Beacon of Hope, A Light in the Darkness**

**PHASE II OF 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST - March 1, 2026 - March 31, 2026**

First Place \$100.00 LA001144 Saint Matthews 13  
 Second Place \$75.00 TX002699 Saint Jane Frances de Chantel 9  
 Third Place \$50.00 CA001520 Guardian Angel 6  
 Honorable Recognitions Five New Members  
 OR001800 Saint Mary  
 TX002580 Pope John Paul II  
 TX002266 Aquinas  
 Four New Members  
 CA002753 Daughters of Divine Mercy  
 LA002744 Mary, Queen of Peace  
 NY000832 Ave Maria  
 PA002628 Mystical Rose  
 SC002356 Saint Michael  
 TX000829 Scared Heart

**PHASE III OF 2026 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CONTEST – April 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026 has begun**

Prizes will be awarded to the top three Local Courts with the most increased members, in the event of a tie, a drawing will take place.

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Prize -- \$100.00      2<sup>nd</sup> Place Prize -- \$75.00      3<sup>rd</sup> Place Prize -- \$50.00**

**SAVE THE DATE: JCDA BIENNIAL #LOVEYOURSELFIE RETREAT**

When: June 9 – June 12, 2026

Where: Camp Karol Retreat Center: website: [www.campkarol.org](http://www.campkarol.org)  
 Lake Charles, Louisiana

Activities: Pilgrimage to the gravesite of Blessed Charlene Richard “the little Cajun Saint”  
 Field trip to Lazy Gator Water Park

The Retreat will also include a variety of faith-oriented and engaging events

Member Registration Fee: \$199.00 per person (includes lodging, retreat programming, all meals and snacks, retreat T-shirt, and Field trip transportation)

Arrival Information: Please plan to arrive at Retreat registration check-in table between 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm on Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Let us bless all the JCDA girls who are going to this wonderful anniversary retreat at Camp **Karol** Retreat Center. A blessed event for the girls.

**SAVE THE DATE: CDA NATIONAL CONVENTION**

When: July 22-26, 2026

Where: Coralville Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center – **SOLD OUT**  
 300 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Coralville, Iowa

Opening of the Convention is on July 22, 2026

Delegate & Alternate Registration:

\$175 Delegate due June 1, 2026      \$155 Alternate due June 1, 2026

Meals: \$60 Iowa Fun Night      \$75 Appreciation Banquet

There are 3 additional hotels: Click here for second call to convention: [Second Call to Convention.pdf](#)

1. Staybridge Suites: \$149 night – includes hot daily breakfast
2. Drury In & Suites: \$150 night – includes hot daily breakfast
3. Homewood Suites By Hilton: \$159 per night – includes hot daily breakfast – **SOLD OUT**



## CIRCLE OF LOVE

A circle is a curved line with every point equal distance from the point of the center and bound together by the common interest. The seven-point program of the CIRCLE OF LOVE is bound together by the common interest – LOVE.

- EDUCATION:** Carole Gilmore ~ [mrscag@live.com](mailto:mrscag@live.com)  
 Yvette Manard ~ [proactivepatient@verizon.net](mailto:proactivepatient@verizon.net)  
 Diana Campos ~ [PIR04DC@hotmail.com](mailto:PIR04DC@hotmail.com)  
**State Chairman:** Maria Arechiga  
 National Chairman: Nancy Bambenek ~ [nancy@hbcsc.net](mailto:nancy@hbcsc.net)  
**Congratulations Division II – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Essay: Victoria Plata – Our Lady of Victory**
- FAMILY:** Karen Jones ~ [Kdj4237308@gmail.com](mailto:Kdj4237308@gmail.com)  
**State Chairman:** Laura McQuoid ~ [I\\_mcquoid@yahoo.com](mailto:I_mcquoid@yahoo.com)  
 National Chairman: Barb Wiechmann ~ [barbwcd2024@gmail.com](mailto:barbwcd2024@gmail.com)  
**Congratulations 1<sup>st</sup> Place for “Angel Tree Christmas Gifts”**
- LEADERSHIP:** Marnee Melendez ~ [mjmelendz@gmail.com](mailto:mjmelendz@gmail.com)  
**State Chairman:** Ismaela Muniz-Heiden ~ [ismaela.muniz@gmail.com](mailto:ismaela.muniz@gmail.com)  
 National Chairman: Rosie Stockwell ~ [rosiestockwell@gmail.com](mailto:rosiestockwell@gmail.com)
- LEGISLATION:** Essie Preston ~ [epreston05@yahoo.com](mailto:epreston05@yahoo.com)  
**State Chairman:** Maureen Laubacher  
 National Chairman: Kathleen Grange  
 National CDA Legislative Quarterly-December 2025”  
[natl qtrly WINTER 2026.docx-1.pdf](#)  
 Information on legislature measures in California:  
<https://cacatholic.org/action-alerts/>
- QUALITY OF LIFE:** Linda Wilson-Davis ~ [queen90018@yahoo.com](mailto:queen90018@yahoo.com)  
**State Chairman:** Mary Beasley  
 National Chairman: Mary Ann Kizer ~ [maryannkizeryahoo.com](mailto:maryannkizeryahoo.com)
- SPIRITUAL ENHANCEMENT:** Carole Gilmore – [mrscag@live.com](mailto:mrscag@live.com)  
 Alice Avery ~ [ajavery7@yahoo.com](mailto:ajavery7@yahoo.com)  
**State Chairman:** Capria Woodson-Tabor  
 National Chairman: Connie Dronette ~ [conniecdayahoo.com](mailto:conniecdayahoo.com)  
 Susan Killian ~ [susankillian@gmail.com](mailto:susankillian@gmail.com)
- YOUTH/JCDA:** Maribel Lara ~ [maribeltorreslara@yahoo.com](mailto:maribeltorreslara@yahoo.com)  
**State Chairman:** Vacant  
 National Chairman: Yvette Griego ~ [yvettegriego.cdagmail.com](mailto:yvettegriego.cdagmail.com)  
 Karin Dudash ~ [dudashcdagmail.com](mailto:dudashcdagmail.com)

## MEMBERS PAGE

### MEMBERSHIP

Do you know ladies who might want to join our Court. We need new members with new ideas and new talents and willing to share their talents and gifts with us. Please invite someone to come sit at one of our meetings and their blessings will be many. For more information, please contact our membership chairmen:

**Amparo Marez @ 310-594-9897**

**Yvette Manard @ 562-400-8079**

**Alicia Jeter @ 310-667-2395**

### DUES

The 2026 dues are \$40.00 for the year. If you would like to start paying now, you may submit this to Rosa. Please bring your money to our meeting or mail it to Rosa at the below address:

Please mail your dues to:

Financial Secretary

Rosa Cadena

3002 Clarendon Ave.

Huntington Park, CA 90255

323-819-9374

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Marnee Melendez
- 8 Joan Braun
- 18 Maria Flores
- 18 Rosa Cadena
- 24 Lovie Leslie
- 25 Sandra Koch

### MAY SAINTS

- 1 Saint Joseph the Worker
- 2 2 Saint Athanasius
- 12 Saints Nereus and Achilleus
- 12 Saint Pancras
- 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 Saint Matthias, Apostle
- 15 Saint Isidore
- 18 Pope Saint John I
- 20 Saint Bernardine of Siena
- 21 Saint Christopher Magallanes & Companions
- 22 Saint Rita of Cascia
- 25 Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
- 26 Saint Philip Neri
- 27 Saint Augustine of Canterbury
- 29 Pope Saint Paul VI
- 30 Blessed Virgin Mary

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Diana Campos 1 year
- 4 Cathy Perez 1 year
- 4 Veronica Pimentel 1 year

### MAY CALENDAR

- 3 One Million Rosaries
- 4 One Million Rosaries
- 5 One Million Rosaries
- 7 National Day of Prayer
- 10 Mother's Day
- 14 Feast of Ascension
- 24 Pentecost Sunday
- 25 Memorial Day
- 25 Pentecost Monday
- 31 Most Holy Trinity

### THE MEMORARE

Remember. O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my mother. To you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me.

Amen

### SYMPATHY

Aaron Michael McGuire – PSR Melody Ciaravino's stepson

Joseph William Paul Dickson Sr.

James A. Stockwell II – son of National Director

Rosie Stockwell

## PRAYER CORNER

### PRAYING THE ROSARY

Praying for ourselves, our families, our church, and for world peace.

#### #1 Ct. Compton #942 Rosary

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month  
 Time: 7:00 pm  
 Where: ZOOM  
 Meeting Id: 971 925 5126  
 Passcode: 825419

#### #2 ACCW ROSARY

Every Tuesday and Thursday  
 8:00 p.m. PST  
 Call in: 1-425-436-6200  
 410510#

#### #3 OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Every Sunday  
 7:45 p.m. PST  
 Call in: 1-425-436-6200  
 410510#

### POPE LEO XIV PRAYER CARD

#### Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost, O.S.A.

O God, who chose your servant Pope Leo XIV in succession to the Apostle Peter as shepherd of the whole flock, look favorably on the prayers of Your people and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth, he may confirm his brothers and sisters and that the whole Church may be in communion with him in the bond of unity, love and peace, so that in You, the shepherd of souls, all may know the truth and attain life eternal.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen

Born: September 14, 1955  
 Ordained Priest: June 19, 1982  
 Ordained Bishop: December 12, 2014  
 Elevated to Cardinal: September 30, 2023  
 Elected Pope: May 8, 2025

### PRAYERS – Karen Jones

Pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.

Philippians 4:6 NLT

#### MEMBERS:

Alice Avery and her family (*Jacob, Ontario, Frances, Danielle*) Friend (*Linda*)  
 Joan Braun and family (*Edwards & Paul's*)  
 Janet Castaneda and family (*Kathy*)  
 Bonita Carter  
 Elisapeta Fido  
 Maria Flores  
 Louise Harris and husband (*Roy*)  
 Carole Gilmore and husband (*Rodney*)  
 Sandra Koch  
 Amparo Marez and daughter  
 Doris Wilson and family  
 Nyah Wilson (*Doris's granddaughter*)  
 Terron Walton – Mama Dee's grandson  
 Suzette Martinez (*Yvette's sister*)  
 Pedro Gutierrez – *Patty's father*  
 CA State Regent Maria Santos-Silva  
 CA State Regent Mary Beasley  
 CA Past State Regent Melody Ciaravino  
 CA Past State Regent Mary Bernard  
 Barbara Welch  
 Father Domingo  
 Father Stan Bosch  
 Deacon Alberto Reyes  
 Father Roberto Mena  
 Linda Wilson-Davis  
 Vanessa Simms Green (*Bonita's sister*)  
 Steve Bell – *Dee's husband*  
 Pat Smith – *Bonita's cousin*  
 Father Victor Ramos (priest at Sacred Heart)  
 Denise Gonzalez (secretary at Sacred Heart)  
 Eleanor Heithoff (*Jo Bryant's granddaughter*)  
 Shirley Creighton

## THE MOTHER OF JESUS WAS THERE

Thursday, 30 April 2026.

Readings: Acts 1:12-14, Luke 1:46-55, Luke 1:26-38

“Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, what concern is that to you and me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’” (John 2:4-5)

As April ends today, we celebrate a Feast that perfectly sets us in the mood for devotion to Mary, given that May is Mary’s Month. Today is the feast of Our Lady, Mother of Africa. Our Gospel passage today captures that familiar scene of the Wedding Feast at Cana. The role Mary played in ensuring the miracle is one reason we often turn to her when we pray to God.

First, Mary understood the problem and immediately informed Jesus, “They have no wine.” In other words, “Do something.” Mary teaches us to have faith in Jesus.

Secondly, we see that Jesus has a very high regard for Mary. Jesus initially protested, “My hour has not yet come,” but Mary pressed further. Mary teaches us never to give up when we pray for anything.

Thirdly, after successfully convincing Jesus to help the couple, Mary told the servants, “Do whatever He tells you” (John 2:5). Mary teaches us to trust and obey God.

Fourthly, after the miracle, we do not hear from Mary again. She remained in the background. Mary teaches us humility. She does not brag as some of us do.

Mary is the definition of an intercessor. If we ask human intercessors to pray for us, we should not be afraid to ask Mary to pray for us, whether we are Catholics or not. Asking for her intercession is not worshipping her.

Our first reading tells us that Mary was present with the Apostles in the Upper Room, where they devoted themselves to prayer. They took her as their mother. Anyone who acknowledges that Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God knows that Mary is not just any woman; she is not an envelope God used and dumped.

In our responsorial psalm today, Mary declares: “Henceforth, all generations will call me blessed,” not because she is some goddess but because “He who is mighty has done great things for me” (Luke 1:48-49). We honor Mary because God honored her first.

Today, we celebrate Mary’s intercession for Africa. When Herod sought to kill the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph took shelter in Africa. At a time when our continent is facing turmoil and suffering under the yoke of neocolonialism, we need Mother Mary’s intercession more than ever. Let us pray: Lord, as we honor the glorious memory of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Africa, we ask that by the help of her prayers we too may come to share the fullness of your grace and live in harmony and peace as one family. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Deacon Chukwuma Maria.