

San Angelo State Retreat
September 2006
By Henriette Jalowoy

All five State officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas hosted a State retreat at San Angelo diocese Christ the King Retreat Center September 22-24. The State officers are State Regent Olga Samaneigo of El Paso, First Vice State Regent Carolyn Bachman of Scotland, Second Vice State Regent Sheila Martinka of Pasadena, State Secretary Carolyn Malik of Shiner, and State Treasurer Peggy Rosales of Austin.

Retreat Master for the journey was Rev. Chuck Gunti. He is a member of San Jose Mission Friar community in San Antonio. Rev Gunti has been a friar for 46 years and a priest for 38. As a chaplain in the U.S. Army, he took care of the religious needs of soldiers and their families at posts in the U.S., Germany and Korea.

The theme for the retreat was the Holy Eucharist—the Mass, the action of Christ in the Mass defined by behaviors and attitudes. Father Gunti made several important points about the Mass. He said, “The sacrifice of the Mass is not repeated. It is continued forever as we offer ourselves to obedience in our relationship to Christ in the Eucharist.”

Additionally, Father Gunti stated, “The Mass is a social event. It is the public worship of God. It is not a private devotion with Him. Christ preached in public. His death was a public act. The Mass is what God has and is doing for us. This is signified in the four parts of the Mass: the entrance, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the exit, meaning the commission to take Christ as revealed to us into the community.”

Father Gunti quoted excerpts from the first encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI titled God is Love, and numerous writings by St. Augustine. He also said, humorously, “I will plop my worries on the altar, “ and he added that his focus would be, “I will practice the living Word,” and advised us to, “Do what you’re told.”

He closed the retreat by emphasizing that we should have both a vertical and a horizontal prayer life.

The Bishop’s aide and the local 4th Degree Knights of Columbus served at the farewell Mass Sunday.