

State Retreat in San Juan

By Henriette Jallowy

Catholic Daughters of the Americas throughout Texas gathered for a retreat on the grounds of the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan Del Valle in San Juan, Texas, January 27-29, 2006.

Sister Ninfa Garza of the Missionaries of Jesus conducted the inspiring retreat with about 140 Catholic Daughters. She used many innovative concrete examples illustrating her theme “God the Father, God and Son, and God the Holy Spirit.”

In her talks Sister strongly encouraged the Catholic Daughters to defend their faith. “We are made in God’s image and therefore we are all beautiful. After the fall of Adam and Eve, everyone was anxious for the birth of the Messiah. Jesus left us his gift of the Holy Spirit. We are encouraged to utilize confession and receive communion. God gave us a free will to do things because we love our Creator God, not because we have to.”

Sister Ninfa walked the attendees through a powerful healing-of-past-memories service. Her advice: “Let Go and Let God (handle it).”

Participants were witnesses to a healing service, along with testimonies of healing, in the Basilica Saturday evening. They put their hands on each others shoulders to symbolize God’s healing through them.

Sister Ninfa Garza’s main charge is vocations. She requested that the Catholic Daughters pray for the seed of vocation to be planted and nourished in young people.

Olga Samaniego of El Paso, State Regent, was the coordinator of the state retreat that concluded with a mariachi Mass Sunday morning. Other state officers attending the retreat were Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland, First Vice State Regent; Sheila Martinka of Pasadena, Second Vice State Regent; Carolyn Malik of Shiner, State Secretary; and Peggy Rosales of Austin, State Treasurer. Also attending was Libby Ramirez of Victoria, Third Vice National Regent.

The Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan Del Valle in San Juan has been designated as a national pilgrimage site.

The motherhouse for the Missionaries of Jesus is in Brownsville. Sister Ninfa Garza and others work especially with the poor in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area and the border area.

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