



**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
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September 2023

To: First Vice President, **ALL** Echelons

From: **Antoinette Auriemma**
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Subject: **2023-2024 NATIONAL FIRST VICE PRESIDENT PROGRAM**

CATHOLIC ACTION

The duty of the First Vice President of each Unit is to encourage and acquaint the members with ideals and ideas of the Catholic Action program. To instill upon others, the reason why every member should be an example of the Catholic religion, by always honoring our Blessed Mother. The feature that distinguishes our organization from all other veterans' organizations is our link with the glorious history of the greatest institution ever founded, our Holy Mother Church. The goal of every person is eternal salvation. The Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary may be the stairway to salvation and the means of showing others the way.

Activities that we are encouraged to be followed include sponsoring a Corporate Communion Mass and Breakfast; by taking an active role in the Church by volunteering in the various Church Ministries in your parish; reciting a decade of the Holy Rosary before your CWVA meeting. Church projects such as visiting the sick and offering prayers for those in hospitals, nursing homes and home-bound members, attending daily mass when possible, visiting the Blessed Sacrament and spending time in adoration. A memorial service for deceased members is also recommended. Religious retreats and visiting shrines and missions are encouraged to help the members spend some quiet time with God.

The Catholic Action program is faith, love, and hope: take special pride in your faith, hope that we can all spread the miraculous deeds of God through our faith and our example and love one another.

SPIRITUAL BOUQUET FOR THE HOLY FATHER

The Spiritual Bouquet project is a very important Catholic Action activity. Begin early and remember all that prayers help. Pray for the Holy father, for peace, for the needy and destitute, to end abortion, for our country, and for all the servicemen and women. The report form is enclosed.

CATHOLIC ACTION REPORT FORM CATEGORIES

1. **CORPORATE COMMUNIONS:** Corporate Communion should be encouraged in the months that have five (5) Sundays. Strive for a 100% attendance in conjunction with your Post. It is suggested that some activities be held following Mass, such as breakfast or dinner.

RETREATS: A Retreat or Day/Night of Recollection may be planned, inviting other Auxiliaries or parishioners to participate. Take part in a retreat and attend a Parish mission. In all programs, seek the assistance of your Chaplain; the spiritual and social benefits are most rewarding.

2. **MASSES and SPIRITUAL BOUQUET:** Masses for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, First Saturdays for Priests, etc., could be planned with your First Vice Commander and a joint venture. A POW/MIA mass would be in order so we can remember those veterans who cannot be with us.
3. **ROSARY:** Take part in Novenas to Our Lady of Fatima. Recite a decade of the Rosary before the start of your meetings. When traveling, why not use the "Finger Rosary"? Attend the Rosary services for a deceased member and/or member of their family.
4. **RELIGIOUS and MISSIONS:** Remember our Chaplains and seminarians who are usually discreet about their needs. Ask if they are in need of any assistance that you may be able to offer. The missions are always in need of material goods or monetary donations; both are greatly appreciated.

ADOPT A MILITARY CHAPLAIN: The program was introduced recently. Praying for these chaplains is the CWVA way of showing how much we appreciate their interest and devotion to our men and women who are serving in the military. Donations to the Archdiocese for the Military Services may be sent to: Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, P.O. Box 4469, Washington, D.C. 20017-0469.

5. **PARISH COMMITTEE WORK:** There is a never-ending need for volunteers on parish or diocesan committees. We must encourage members to volunteer for their services. There are CCD classes and fundraising programs for the maintenance of our churches. Promote Catholic literature by subscribing to your local Catholic Diocesan newspaper and/or to "the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights" at 450 Seventh Ave., 34th Floor, New York, NY 10123. The Catholic League keeps one apprised of issues pertinent to our Catholic faith.
6. **OBSERVE CWV DAY, DEC. 8TH:** Plan a Mass and some social activity jointly with your Post. Take part in the Good Friday services of your parish. Promote our "Keep Christ in Christmas" program by using religious Christmas cards and stamps and encourage others to do the same. Encourage merchants to use yard and window displays that are religious.
7. **ADOPT A PRIEST (KNOWN ONLY TO YOU AND Our Blessed Mother):** They need our prayers as well as our financial support as they continue to extend a helping-hand to people in need.
8. **SPECIAL PROJECTS:** This is your individual section of the report and can cover a great number of programs pertaining to Catholic Action. Join a local group working on the pornography issue. Write to your local TV stations regarding inappropriate films or programs. We are interested in learning about your special Catholic Action projects.

REPORTS

All 2023-2024 reports are to be sent through ECHELONS even though the National 1st Vice President report form has the deadline of JUNE 30, 2024. All department 1st Vice Presidents should submit their report and compilation as soon as their department convention has been concluded to give the national vice president time to have the reports judged in addition to forwarding all lower echelon forms – two reports are to be completed by department 1st Vice President.

- 1) A yearly report covering all department sponsored activities performed by the department board of officers, past department presidents, and department chairpersons. This is the department as a unit report.
- 2) A total of all unit activities including the department boards (and if from PA or NY, the chapter boards) activities are then to be made. This second report is a compiled report.

AWARDS BEST OVERALL CATHOLIC ACTION PROGRAM

ECHELON	AWARD FOR 1 ST PLACE	AWARD FOR 2 ND PLACE
Department	\$25 Check and Citation	Citation
Chapter	\$25 Check and Citation	Citation
Unit, up to 30	\$25 Check and Citation	Citation
Unit. 31 – 75	\$25 Check and Citation	Citation
Unit, 76 – 120	\$25 Check and Citation	Citation
Unit, 121+	\$25 Check and Citation	Citation

National Citations are awarded to UNIT, CHAPTER, and DEPARTMENT First Vice President with best Special Project.

If I may be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. Best wishes for a successful program!

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**2023 – 2024 Report Form
CATHOLIC ACTION**

Auxiliary Name and No. _____

Number of Members _____ **Department** _____

Name and Address of Officer _____

Phone No _____ **Email** _____

1. Corporate Communion Breakfast, Pilgrimages, Retreats, Days of Recollection
2. Masses (Memorial Day, Veterans Day, First Saturday for Priest, POW/MIA), Spiritual Bouquets (other than for the Holy Father)
3. Rosaries at meetings/events, Group Visitations/Services for deceased members of relatives of members.
4. Aid to Chaplains (including Military), Vestments, etc. donated to missions, Nuns, Seminarian or Archdiocese for the Military.
5. Serving on Diocesan & Parish Committees, Right to Life, promoting Catholic literature.
6. Observance of CWV Day (Dec. 8th), Religious Holidays, Interfaith Programs.
7. Adopt-a-Priest!
8. Special Project(s)

*******NEW*******

**PLEASE EXPLAIN ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER. WRITE IN A NARRATIVE
STYLE.**

THROUGH ECHELONS: FROM UNIT (to CHAPTER, if any), to DEPARTMENT, to NATIONAL
AUXILIARY OFFICER; DEADLINE DATE of **JUNE 30, 2024**

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2023– 2024 SPIRITUAL BOUQUET REPORT FORM

The Spiritual Bouquets for Pope Francis will commence October 1, 2023, and continue through June 1, 2024

1. Holy Sacrifice of the Mass _____
2. Holy Communion _____
3. Rosaries _____
4. Stations of the Cross _____
5. Acts of Charity _____
6. Eucharistic Visits and Adoration _____
7. Fast or Other Mortifications _____
8. Aspirations (short prayers during the day) _____
9. Divine Mercy _____

Auxiliary Name and No. _____ No. of Members _____

Department _____

Name and Address of Officer _____

Phone No _____ E-mail _____

THROUGH ECHELONS: from UNIT (to CHAPTER, if any), to DEPARTMENT, to NATIONAL OFFICER; DEADLINE DATE of JUNE 30, 2024