

Department President

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS #2

Be ever ready to praise, to encourage, to stimulate but slow to censure and still slower to condemn.

Sister Catherine McAuley

Greetings to all of my Sisters in Pennsylvania. I hope that you are enjoying the fall color and are not worn out switching back and forth from air conditioning to heat. Our calendar of events is continuing to grow. The Remembrance Day schedule is as follows, Allied Orders ceremony at the GAR Memorial on the battlefield at 11 am, at 1 pm the parade steps off from Lefever Street, the 86th Annual Dedication Dinner will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn at 6:30 pm, (more information on our website) followed by the SVR Remembrance Day Ball at the Wyndham at 8 p.m.

Our February Lincoln luncheon will be hosted by Auxiliary #50 in Carlisle, date and time TBA. Our Appomattox luncheon will be hosted by Mt. Union Camp and Auxiliary #502 in conjunction with DUVCW Susanna Cook Tent #61. The event will be held on April 8, 2017 at the Oakhurst Tearoom in Somerset, PA.

On November 18th 2016 we will be instituting a new Auxiliary and welcoming new Sisters in a ceremony at the Courtyard Inn by Marriot adjacent to the Wyndham. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

Sister Gale Dunkle has created handouts of Union Civil War and Patriotic songs. For the good of the order she will email copies of her documents at your request. She is also willing to mail hard copies to those who do not have email. She can be reached at 1Z2ygale@comcast.net Sister Gale has also shared many pictures of our last encampment on our website. I thank her for her efforts. Thanks also to Brother Dave Sosnowski who has taken many wonderful pictures of our events over the years.

Our Patriotic Instructor, Sister Linda Snook will hold a basket raffle outside of the ballroom at the Wyndham. Please show your support for both of our money officers.

Thanks again to Sister Ellen Higgins for keeping our website up to date and for her work on the National website.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you on Remembrance Day. I hope that you and your families have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas, and that the New Year brings you good health and happiness.

In Fraternity, Loyalty, and Charity,

Susan Mertz

Department of Pennsylvania President

Attest:

Margaret Shuttlesworth, PDP

Pennsylvania Department Secretary

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

I am pleased that our newest Auxiliary will be named after Madeline O'Donnell. She was a Civil War nurse who was a member of the famous Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburg. I have fond memories of that Order from Sister's Summer School and Catechism classes. I fondly remember Sister Mary Michael who spent the first half of recess shooting hoops with us and the second half mending the torn hem of her long habit. I also remember Sister Mary Patience, who forewarned us that despite her name had no patience- fair warning indeed!

Sisters of many Orders acted as nurses during the Civil War. At the time they were the only trained nurses on the battlefields. Although there was little understanding of modern medicine at the time, they understood the necessity of cleanliness and good nutrition.

Many religious Orders were founded to care for the sick, poor, and uneducated. Many of these orders had decades, and in some cases, hundreds of years of experience delivering healthcare before coming to America. Sisters dressed wounds, wrote letters for soldiers, gave spiritual care and some even Baptized soldiers. After the war many Nuns cared for widows and orphans of the soldiers.

At the time of the Civil War it was not considered proper for women to be nurses. There was also a lot of anti-Catholic and anti-immigrant sentiment. Many of the Nuns were from Ireland. Their efforts helped to advance women in the nursing profession and also helped to change the perceptions of Irish Catholic immigrants.

The Sisters of Mercy Order was founded by Catherine McAuley in Dublin, Ireland in 1831. Sisters of Mercy from Pittsburg were twice requested by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton to run hospitals for our troops in the Washington, D. C. area and Pittsburg. President Lincoln called the nursing Nuns, "veritable angels of mercy".

There is a Nuns of the Battlefield Monument in Washington, D. C. It was designed in 1924 by Irish artist, Jerome Connor and was dedicated to the 600 Nuns who acted as nurses to both armies during the war. Madeline O'Donnell attended the dedication of the monument.

The Sisters of Mercy still have a presence in Pittsburg, Dallas, and Port Merion, PA.

ASUVCW

INSTITUTION OF THE MADELINE
O'DONNELL AUXILIARY # 615

OF EBBENSBURG, PA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH 2016
AT 6 PM

AT THE
DEDICATION ROOM
COURTYARD INN BY MARRIOTT
115 PRESIDENTIAL CIRCLE GETTYSBURG, PA
ADJACENT TO THE WYNDAM HOTEL
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
