

Our Lady of the Prairie News

South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

September 2025
Volume 62, Issue 1



Happy Hour in the Hills



On Wednesday June 18th, Our Lady Of the Black Hills court #2805 was blessed by our National supervisor Nancy Bambenek joining a few of our court members for a meet and greet "Happy Hour". It was a gorgeous afternoon on the patio at the church, and so much was shared about court procedures and the importance of prayer and the reason "why". Thank you Nancy!

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.

National Website:

www.catholicdaughters.org

State Website:

www.cdassouthdakota.com

Do you have news to share?

Email your stories and pictures to:

Newsletter:

SDCDA1918news@gmail.com

Web Page:

SDCDA1918web@gmail.com



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Dignity Bags for Veterans

A large group of Catholic Daughter women met in Sioux Falls and packed 220 Dignity Bags at a packing party. The dignity bags contained essential personal care and hygiene items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste and deodorant. 110 will be going to the VOA Sioux Falls Veterans program and 110 will be going to the Cornerstone Mission Veterans program. Great job with your donations to this cause!!!

Next State Newsletter

Article Deadline:

December 7, 2025

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State Regent—Michele Sage

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to a new CDA year! April 2025 saw the changing of the guard for the South Dakota CDA Board. We said good-bye (for now) to Immediate Past State Regent Judy Konechne as she stepped down as State Regent and to Carolyn Downs as State Treasurer. They both have served us faithfully these past 4 years with grace and steadfastness in this ever-changing world. May our Blessed Mother protect them as they transition into “retirement.” We welcome two new members to the state board, Jan Evans of Rapid City as 2nd Vice State Regent, and Cheryl Schaefer of Polo as State Treasurer. We know that the Holy Spirit will guide them as they begin their new positions and I look forward to working with them.

I have chosen the theme: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phil 4:13. This verse came to me in an unconventional way. I was trying to find a verse that expressed my original desire of God or Holy Mary wrapping their arms around us like a warm quilt. I was having no success. Then one evening, I was scrolling through my Facebook feed (and according to Father Fitzpatrick this past weekend, he reported that he read that we scroll an average of 85 miles a year) and I came across this verse from Philippians. It struck a chord with me, so I jotted it down. As the evening and weekend continued, that verse kept popping into my head. I believe it was the Holy Spirit telling me, “Michele, believe in it, take it to heart.” And the more I thought and prayed, the more I began to understand that it was God telling me that He will be at my side as I work through the challenges of being your State Regent for the next 2 years. So I ask that you pray for me as well as the other state board members as we bring the Good News of the Gospel and Catholic Daughters to you and those around you. Blessings,

Michele Sage



State Chaplain — Deacon Philip Carlson

I would like to share some thoughts about prayer that I was able to share with the State leadership of Catholic Daughters earlier this month. I was virtually present by a Zoom meeting invite and link and as we were getting the meeting going, the comment was made about my Zoom meeting background. It was a Joan of Arc background. I told the group that Joan of Arc is my favorite saint because her story is really a one-of-a-kind singular story in history of the power of prayer.

There is no other figure in history, male or female, who at age 17 essentially changed the fortunes and future of his or her country. She was illiterate, but she was rooted in prayer and her witness was so powerful that she convinced a King and generals to follow her directions for the country of France. Her country was losing a war against England and then with her leadership France prevailed and won the war. I have personally felt my own version of this prayer power recently. A busy day on June 17th could have been my last day alive. I had passed out in the morning, and thought it was related to dehydration, but after many tests eventually revealed that I had blood clots in both lungs, I ended up at the Heart Hospital a little before midnight on the 17th. The next two days I had procedures to have medicine deposited in my lungs to dissolve the blood clots and came home 3 days later.

We heard of so many who were praying for me and asking for intercession from Nicholas Black Elk and it was very humbling and powerful. While in the hospital I received the prayers of Priests who administered sacraments of anointing and the Eucharist. I am grateful thankful for all these prayers and understand that they had much to do with my healing and recovery.

In Thessalonians 5:16-18, we read “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” And Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk said “let each step upon the earth be as a prayer”. Saint Joan of Arc, pray for us. Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk, pray for us.



1st Vice State Regent — JoAnn Hoffman

Give your burdens to the Lord, and He will take care of you... Psalm 55:22 Dear Lord, Thank you for taking care of me and my loved ones. I am so blessed to be able to lean on you and give you all my worries so that I can experience your perfect peace during challenging times.

Blessings to everyone. We are tripping into the embrace of fall and the hectic rhythm of back-to-school days. Take a few moments to thank the Lord and praise him. The state board gained a wealth of information at the National officer training in July. Next the State board hosted the State chairmen and DD training day at Kimball. Thank you to all the ladies who took time to attend the meeting. South Dakota CDA is so blessed to have these ladies sharing their talents with the whole membership. The new contact list can be found on our website = cdasouthdakota.com

Many courts take the summer months off and are getting back to monthly meetings and planning the projects for the upcoming year. Some courts will have a new DD for the next 2 years. DD alignments are decided by location of our DD's. reach out to them with any questions you may have. In October we have several events to remember and place CDA out there for everyone to see and read what we are about. Sunday October 5th is RESPECT Life Sunday, Sunday October 19th is CDA Sunday. Please visit with you pastor if you can make an announcement from the pulpit or have something in the bulletin or have pamphlets to hand out after Mass. October is Abuse Month and our Lifesaver sales and White Ribbon against Pornography Week. Remember that there is a membership drive from National. Ask your sister, mother, family, friends and the person you sit next to in church. They might say YES. We need to share our wonderful organization with Mother Mary as our patroness. Deb DeFries (our State chairman) has information to help you with membership.

Have a wonderful fall. Enjoy all the bounties that are provided. Snuggle in a comfy blanket with a hot cider and read a passage from the Bible or a devotional book. Remember the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is on Facebook every day at 3pm.

PLEASE NOTE

When contacting any of the State Board, the number may not be recognized and will go to a spam folder or "unknown caller". Please make sure to leave a message with your name and number and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

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2nd Vice State Regent — Jan Evans

I have been a Catholic Daughter for 13 years, I started with St. Joan of Arc in Mason City, Ia. I was an officer for 2 terms in that court. Since moving to South Dakota in 2022, I have enjoyed being part of St. Rita's court since moving here. In April of 2023 I became a District Deputy for West River. I have felt blessed to work with St. Rita's, Our Lady of Lodes and Our Lady of the Black Hills for these past two years.

I look forward to serving South Dakota CDA by supporting and encouraging our District Deputies to grow in their roles and in supporting our National CDA in growing memberships and new courts. Thank you for this opportunity to serve.



State Secretary — Mary Kay Zimmerman

It was great speaking with all of you that attended the DD's and Chairman's Training. I always feel that if you come away with one new idea to implement in your court, it was a success and time well spent. As summer comes to an end and fall approaches, courts are getting geared up for another CDA year. Be excited about the new year and what your court can accomplish. For many, your courts are the mainstay of your parish. Just a reminder that I will be sending you the 2025 Fall State dues in October. As always, if you have any questions just call or email me.



State Treasurer — Cheryl Schaefer

Follow the leader! It was a fun game played as a child, and it has continued to bring great joy into my life. I joined Court Our Lady of Fatima 33 years ago, at the encouragement of my neighbor, JoAnn Schaefer, and the example of my mom and mother-in-law. I followed their lead. I was a busy farm wife and mother of seven when I joined in 1992. Life continued with big changes: our dairy burned down, I started a catering business, I lost my sister to cancer, and Fred and I became grandparents. But finally I made time to attend the 2012 National Convention in Omaha NE where I was blessed to hang out with SD State Officers and chairmen. They exuded so much JOY, that I knew it would be a blessing to follow their lead. So at the 2013 State convention I raised my hand to join Pam Rorvik-Albers as co-chair of Membership and Leadership, a job I have continued ever since! What I love most about

Catholic Daughters is that we strive to follow the lead of Jesus, to be His hand and feet in service to others today. And we follow the lead of His mother Mary, who encourages us to "Do as He asks," and also to live by her motto, "May Your will for me be done." I look forward to following the lead of past State Treasurer Carolyn Downs, to serve each of you as your State Treasurer, and to continue to grow membership in SD CDA!

National News



South Dakota National Supervisor

This past April I had the privilege to be in Spearfish, SD for their 53rd State Convention. It was a beautiful, blest three days of incredible liturgies, new friends, amazing experiences and abundant graces. Business was conducted, inspiring speakers/entertainers were given standing ovations, election and installation of new officers who said “yes” to our Blessed Mother and or the Holy Spirit promptings. Grace at this convention was not flashy, it instead was quite subtle and more powerful than the evil one. For those of you who joined me, you know exactly what I am talking about. For those who couldn’t come, let’s make that happen in two years when the 54th State Convention will be held in Mitchell. You will come back home uplifted and with a renewed sense of joy, purpose and energy to be apart of this great Catholic Order called, Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

With the coming of a new year, I strongly encourage you to start making plans to attend the July National Convention, in Coralville, IA. (Your neighbors to the east!) For those who have never attended a National Convention before this short distance might be the simplest, easiest and least expensive. For those who have taken the opportunity in the past, your presence is kindly requested again to help us get our business done, elect new national officers and directors and be renewed by our CDA family. Start to envision it. Start to make plans with a small group and add more as members feel and see your energy and excitement for this wonderful memorable event. During these planning months ahead there will be challenges to overcome and mini victories to cherish because life is anything but boring. Come set aside some time for yourself to pray, play and learn more about Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Nancy Bambenek, 2nd Vice National Regent

2025 National Education Winners

South Dakota had five education contest winners at the national level.

Division IV Art—1st Place—Laura L. Mayclin

Court Madonna #1952, Plankinton, SD

Division II Essay—1st Place—Sauer Goeden

Court Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, SD

Division III Poetry—1st Place—Madison Brown

Court Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls, SD

Division II Photography—2nd Place—Brady Sage

Court St. Rita #916, Rapid City, SD

Division III Music—3rd Place—Sabrina Strand

Court Madonna #1952, Plankinton, SD

Let’s get working on next year’s Education contest. The theme for the 2025-26 contest is “The Least of These. Matthew 25:40” or “The Least of These: Lifting Others Up.”



Win a Weekend at the Grand 'Ole Lady



A Girl’s Trip to CDA National Headquarters For up to 5 guests

Includes:

- 4 Days and 3 Nights Stay at the Grand Old Lady (Dorm Style) in NYC
- A Broadway ticket for each guest (up to \$200.00 each)
- A Travel Voucher for each guest (Up to \$500.00 each)
- A Food Voucher for each guest (Up to \$250.00 each)

Purchase entry by December 31, 2025

Recipient will be drawn at the March for Life in DC on January 23, 2026

Participation is limited to 1000 entries.

Please Mail \$50 donation* per entry made payable to Catholic Daughters

of the Americas to:

Karin Dudash
1705 Tyler St.
Altus, OK 73521

Download tickets at www.catholicdaughters.org

Stipulations:

1. Only ladies or girls (12 and older) are eligible to stay.
2. Guests must arrive on a Thursday and leave on a Sunday.
3. Date of Trip will be agreed upon by the National Regent and the winner.
4. Trip must be taken by June 1, 2026.

*No donation is required for entry into drawings, but any gift you make to support our ministries will be greatly accepted and will help to make the drawing a success.

Adam Petty’s Legacy of Love and Possibility

In 1999, a lanky, wide-smiling teenager visited Camp Boggy Creek, a SeriousFun camp in Florida, with his dad and knew it was his calling to bring a similar camp to the hills of North Carolina where he grew up. This young man was up-and-coming racecar driver Adam Petty—son of NASCAR driver Kyle Petty, grandson of racing legend Richard Petty, and great-grandson of NASCAR pioneer Lee Petty.

This fourth-generation driver was just beginning his own racing career while still living at home—but Adam was wise beyond his years. Passion drove him both on the track and in his desire to help others. Between races, Adam was often found in pediatric hospitals visiting children with challenging medical conditions. After his visit to Camp Boggy Creek, he began dreaming of creating a place where children living with complex medical and physical needs could experience the joys of childhood in a safe, yet exhilarating environment. One year later, Adam Petty tragically lost his life in a racing accident at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. He was only 19 years old.

To honor Adam’s memory, the Petty family gathered their strength and challenged themselves, their friends, and the NASCAR community to bring his dream to life. With land donated by Richard and Lynda Petty, the family launched a capital campaign in 2002. Dollar by dollar, donations from corporations, individuals, and foundations helped build what would become Victory Junction, a NASCAR-themed camp located in Randleman, N.C. Adam’s legacy of love was realized when the camp opened its gates to its first campers in June of 2004.

PLEASE: use the info below and make sure your membership rosters are up to date with National. You will be billed for membership as of September 30th. Remember—you must pay the amount you are billed even if your membership list shows less.

Clip and Save

Clip and Save

Clip and save

Membership Updates to State and National- Where does it go!

*New members—mail completed form to State Secretary and the National Office.

*Deceased members, address changes, email changes, resignations, forfeitures — may be emailed or mailed to:

STATE SECRETARY

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Or cdaroster@aol.com

PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES—Thank you.

Clip and Save

Clip and Save

Clip and save



Court Madonna #1952 of Plankinton, SD hosted their 51st salad supper on July 16th, 2025. What a full house it was! Tables full of salads too.



PROCLAMATION

Whereas, The Catholic Daughters of the Americas was instituted as an organization in 1903 for women with the purpose of growing in spirituality and working in faithful service and love for God, and

Whereas, Since its beginning, the Catholic Daughters have consistently and unselfishly used their God given talents and time to work for quality of life and defense of humanity, and

Whereas, Catholic Daughters have worked for social justice and show compassion for those in our parishes, community, nation, and world who are vulnerable, homeless, voiceless, and most in need and

Whereas, Catholic Daughters participate in the March for Life, pray and work effortlessly to defend the right to Life at all stages from conception to natural death as designed by God's creation, and

Whereas, Sunday, October 19, 2025, has been designated by the National Board of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas as Catholic Daughter Sunday; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that I hereby proclaim Sunday, October 19, 2025, as Catholic Daughters of the Americas Day.

You May Opt-Out of Hard Copy of SHARE Magazine

Immediate Past National Regent Emily Guilherme said, "We discussed at the Convention how the cost of SHARE Magazine has increased in price these last two years. Some members brought up about opting out of receiving a hard copy of SHARE and reading the digital copy on our website."

"If you would like to opt-out of receiving the hard copy please call the office at 212-877-3041 and ask for Gloria. If she is not available anyone of the office staff can take your request to take you off the mailing list."



Quality of Life

Leadership Training in Kimball, SD

It was wonderful to meeting with state officers in Kimball, SD on August 6 at the Kimball Senior Citizens Center on Main-street. No matter how many times we meet to discuss leadership roles there is always something new I learn.

It began with introductions, then prayer and spiritual talk. The DD's Medallions were a very informative presentation. CDA State Regent, Michele Sage took the time to sew individual bags for the officers to store and carry their medallions in. It is suggested that they be stored in the cupboard of the room where the court meets when not traveling to a state or national convention.

A By-Law quiz skit put on by the state officers was a good lesson and we were all amazed at how much we thought we knew that was not correct. It was originally put on at the national CDA Convention.

One of the biggest things I took away from the meeting was the idea to share ideas with other courts as the Circle of Love Chair for Quality of Life. Looking at the CDA State website for past winners is a good way to see what other courts have done that can be used with some changes.

Until next year I will try to apply what the state officers were kind enough to share with me at the meeting and pass it on to other CDA members.

Gloria K. Bauske

CDA Circle of Love "Quality of Life" state chair



We all face moments when we need a little extra support, and having a community of amazing women praying for us can make all the difference.

If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Joann Hoffman— sdcdavice1@gmail.com. She will connect with our dedicated prayer warriors, ensuring that your intentions are lifted to heaven. Lets us surround each other with love and powerful prayers!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- ♥ Prayer Intentions: Donna Carlson, Regent, Ct. Willard Yankton, heart issues
- ♥ Students and Teachers
- ♥ All our struggling courts
- ♥ All our CDA courts as they begin their new year
- ♥ Continued good health for Bishop DeGrood

Prayer Shawls for Veterans

Delivery of prayer shawls to Chaplain Mark at the Sioux Falls Veterans Hospital. Ladies of the Mother Theresa Court 2510, Jr. CDA, and State Chairwoman for Military Projects.



Pies Wanted for October Clergy Days

Attention Courts: Can you provide pies for the east river Clergy Days, on Tuesday, October 7th? It is just one way that we can show our appreciation to the clergy of the Catholic Diocese of Sioux Falls. Please contact Michele Sage for more information by September 20th. (605) 695-5960 OR sdcldaregent@gmail.com



Lifesavers during the Sturgis Rally

Our Lady of the Black Hills, court #2805, chose to do the Lifesaver fundraiser during Sturgis Rally. We always have bikes in the parking lot this time of year. The poster was made by Cheryl Schmitt. Pictured is Second Vice State Regent Jan Evans and Jean Holm.



Kathy Feuerhelm, Joan Grimm, Carolyn Downs, Kristine Engelhardt, Lila Fisher, Cindy Riddle received their District Deputy medallions at the August training workshop. Each medallion came with a handmade bag to protect it when not worn.



Across the State



Seminarian and Priest Days kicked off in Hot Springs

On Monday, August 4th, the day started with Mass then lunch provided by Catholic Daughters court Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs. Smiles of appreciation were shared with all who attended.



State Officers Joann Hoffman, Cheryl Schaefer, Mary Kay Zimmerman, Michele Sage and Jan Evans had a 'round up' quiz for those who attending training in August. Please review the By-laws annually as some areas change at each National Convention.

