

# Our Lady of the Prairie News

October 2023  
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South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas®



## RESOLUTION State Officers Conference July 20-22, 2023

**Whereas**, CDA members, as a family, need to support each other as we all struggle to meet life's challenges; and

**Whereas**, many of our members are aging gracefully while others suffer a variety of health issues both acute and chronic; and

**Whereas**, many members function as caregivers to other family members due to age or disease; and

**Whereas**, our members are saddened by the loss of members, spouses, parents, children and long time friends; and

**Whereas**, many of our current and past members reside in nursing facilities and are often lonely; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that members help and support each other as we see the need with visits, rides, food, prayer, uplifting notes, or phone calls; and be it further

**Resolved**, that we attend funerals for our CDA sisters who have passed whenever possible, offer Masses for their intentions, and pray the Rosary for deceased members and their families.

Submitted by National Resolutions Committee  
Michele Bowman and Irene Gramza  
Approved July 19, 2023



### 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](http://www.catholicdaughters.org)

### State Website:

[www.cdassouthdakota.com](http://www.cdassouthdakota.com)

### Do you have news to share?

Email your stories and pictures to:

### Newsletter:

[SDCDA1918news@gmail.com](mailto:SDCDA1918news@gmail.com)

### Web Page:

## Leadership by Brenda Anderson, National Director

### A successful Team is made up of Leaders

1. They lead by example
2. They continue to learn
3. They are honest, fair and loyal to the order
4. They build relationships with their players
5. They have expectations for their team and work to meet the goals
6. They strive for self improvement - how can I get better
7. They turn weaknesses into strengths
8. They never are alone as there Leaders at all levels as a resource
9. They pay attention to deadlines and time lines
10. They offer praise often
11. They offer gentle correction and willingness to assist
12. They have a positive attitude through the ups and downs
13. They have plan B ready to implement
14. And - they are each of you - CDA Leader Sisters



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### Next State Newsletter

**Article Deadline:  
January 15, 2024**

## State Officers

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### State Regent—Judy Konechne

Dear CDA sisters in Christ!

The fall trees give us many colors to reflect on and we can put that in perspective with other things in our lives. We can make changes as the leaves change. For each color, add a special prayer or task to strengthen your faith life. Or adopt a special person and do little tasks for them that may be hard for them to do. The rewards will create a beautiful picture in the eyes of the Lord and in your hearts.

Another color to work on is to bring one – get one. Several courts are adding new members – this is so special to see. If you haven't asked a friend to join you for a meeting and maybe become a member, please do so. The rewards they will reap can expand their faith - something many ladies are looking for. Remember – they may have been asked before and didn't join for some reason, this time just might be the correct time to join. It doesn't hurt to ask again.

Do you have a neighboring court that is struggling? Reach out to them and see if there is something your court can do to help bring new life to their court. Maybe help in gathering new members. With the new Pastorates, we have many options to expand on.

All Souls Day is fast approaching. Remember your members that have helped your court get where you are today and continue to give you guidance from above. Do a special ceremony to honor those past members. Also remember your family members who have passed. Many of them helped guide you personally to where you are today.

Blessings to each of you and may the many colors encourage many changes in your life.

Regent Judy



### State Chaplain — Fr. Jim Friedrich

Dear Catholic Daughters,

I began expanding on Christ, the Bridegroom (my talk at the convention) last time; before I resume, I write today from my talk at the leaders' training: As a priest I'm concerned that, when I say, "Do this in MEMORY of me," people get the impression that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is only about a sacrifice that once was, back in time.

But the word translated MEMORY in the Greek NT and in the Hebrew OT have a sense of making a past event present now. So after the Passover night freeing them from Egypt, Moses' instructs the people to repeat this annually and tell their children, "It IS the Passover sacrifice..." (Ex 12:25)

When we hear, "This IS my Body given up for you...IS my Blood poured out for you...", the one Sacrifice, once for all, is not repeated but is MADE PRESENT. Which is why St. Paul writes that it is a "participation in the Blood of Christ...in the Body of Christ" (1 Cor 10:16) and allows us to 'fill up in our own flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ' (Col 1:24).

When I can offer my little "prayers, works, joys and sufferings, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass", it makes it all have great redemptive value, so worthwhile! To make Christ's sacrifice present in our midst is what moves me to celebrate Mass each and every day. The Catechism is very good on this in paragraph 1085 and 1362-1367.

Peace, Fr. Jim





**1st Vice State Regent — Michelle Sage**

Dear Sisters in Christ,  
Welcome to Fall! A time when God's magical touch turns the greens of summer to the golden hues of autumn. We are approaching the end of the liturgical year, and we look forward to the new Advent and Christmas season. But as we end this liturgical year, we are given the great opportunity to grow in our faith with the entire month of October dedicated to our patroness, Our Blessed Mother Mary in the praying of the Holy Rosary. Are you taking the time (usually only 15 minutes) to stop, clear your mind and meditate on the Mysteries of the Rosary? This time set aside in our daily lives will bring us closer to the Lord Jesus Christ, and allow us to be open to hearing His voice.

It wasn't until after I made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje that I truly began to appreciate and love the Rosary. It was there that I felt the love of the Blessed Virgin Mary and that she truly wants us to be her beloved children. You don't have to travel halfway across the world to experience this great love. All you need to do is find a quiet place either in a chapel, out in nature or in the privacy of your room, to pray the Rosary and be open to its message.

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*



**2nd Vice State Regent — JoAnn Hoffman**

Blessing to all our sisters in CDA, this gorgeous fall morning. How can anyone deny there is a God, when they see the magic of the 4 seasons and the beauty that unfolds before our eyes in the fall with changing of the colors. Take time to witness the fall colors and thank God for his creation.

Many courts are busy planning their fall and Advent activities. Much success in all your ventures. Also, fall is time for the semi-annual Financial Reviews. Please contact your District Deputy well in advance. Some courts have the same DD as last term and many of you have a new DD. Take time to include your DD in court mailings and meetings. We have a fantastic team of DD's ready to cross the state to help you.

Reflection: Humans are not naturally wired to deny themselves. We seem to put our wants first. Most of us are not called to live the ascetical life. Maybe, we need to give up an evening in front of the TV; so we can sit with the Lord in Adoration. And what do you find when you do? The love, mercy, and comfort that the Lord longs to give you. What is God asking you to "lose" today? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you see where an instance of self-denial will draw you closer to him or better reflect his love to the world.

If it seems too simple; DO IT ANYWAY. It might just be another step in finding your life in the Lord. As CDA members we have the opportunity to share our beautiful organization with other ladies in our parish. So often I hear the comment. "Well no one ever asked me:" Please have a membership form with you to sign them up! Go forth and get new members.

"Lord, I believe you are with me! I trust in you!"



**State Board**

**State Treasurer — Carolyn Downs**

Here we go, ladies, into our busy months of CDA as we gather to do the work of which we have pledged our hearts, time and talent for the good of our communities and its people! Our Circle of Love projects await our attention and we are blessed to be able to share our creativity and energy in ways that praise our Lord and His kingdom. St. Martin of Tours stated, "Lord, if your people need me, I will not refuse the work. Your will be done."

In the coming months we will have the opportunities to fight the war on Pornography through our WRAP project, celebrate and showcase our Catholic Daughter organization on Catholic Daughter Sunday, honor our deceased CDA sisters in thought and prayer, plan our programs and retreats, and INVITE AND WELCOME NEW WOMEN into our organization!

Past State Regent and now National Director, Brenda Anderson, has heightened our awareness to "Get On Board" the new member train and share the goodness that CDA brings to us and our communities. We are blessed so very much in our lives through our CDA friendships and faith lives – let's share these blessings with others.

I will be the State Representative for the courts in Brookings and Madison and I'm looking forward to meeting their members for their meetings, reviews & events. Mother Mary, pray for us as we go forward, with your guidance, to spread the word & works of CDA!



**State Secretary — Mary Kay Zimmerman**

Since I am new to the State Secretary position, I'm still getting acclimated to my duties, along with still maintaining my duties as Regent for my local court. I have been assigned as DD to both Dakota Dunes – Our Lady of the Rosary #2560 and Yankton – Willard #967.

The fall came up quicker than anticipated, but I do plan on getting acquainted with each of the courts. This is always a great time to gather new ideas that can be useful to all the courts. I know that finding ways for more members to attend meetings is an issue for many courts, but do not be afraid to ask your members for input on this.

I encourage members to consider attending the National Convention, as the one I in attended in Sioux Falls was a huge game changer for me. Being around all those women who have a strong Catholic faith was truly inspirational. I think you will be surprised at the emotional and spiritual support that you will receive from your Catholic Daughter sisters on a regular basis. I know that I am.



# National News



**NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE for SD**  
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 Shullsburg, WI 53586  
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 wisconsinca@aol.com

With October being Pro Life Month, it's a wonderful opportunity for us as Catholic Daughters and as women to recommit ourselves to Life from Birth to Natural Death. We can individually or as a unified body:

- ♥ Pray for the Unborn and their mothers. Asking God to protect & strengthen them and to guide them towards choices that are life affirming.
- ♥ Educate ourselves and others about the Pro-life movement. Learn & share information with others.
- ♥ Support Pro-Life organizations. Donate money, host a diaper drive, volunteer your time, or simply spread the words about their work.
- ♥ Contact your elected officials as Individuals (not CDA Organization). Let the elected officials know that you support Pro-life Legislation. Encourage their vote against laws that make it easier to get an abortion and support laws that protect the unborn.
- ♥ Be kind compassionate to women who have had abortions. They are often hurting and need our love and support. Let them know that there is forgiveness and healing available through Jesus Christ.
- ♥ Attend a mass for the unborn. (October 1 is the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, patron saint of Pro-Life.)
- ♥ Pray A Rosary for the unborn.

I invite you to consider a Pilgrimage to a Pro-Life Shrine. January 18, 2024 is the Pro-Life Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. On Friday, January 19th is the March for Life Walk! Join CDA Members in this walk (marchforlife.org). By taking ACTION, we can help create a culture of LIFE in our world and protect the most vulnerable members of our society.



**The Grand Old Lady** - Go to the National website for your chance to win a girls trip to New York to see the Grand Old Lady (National CDA Office). By supporting the 1903 Society, you are part of the refurbishing efforts of this great historical building. Send your name, address, phone number and donation (suggested \$50) to:

Connie Dronette  
 610 Pitre Street  
 Sulphur, LA 70663



## Get on the Bus!

Destination : New Orleans, LA  
 When: August 14-18, 2024

The State is looking into taking a bus to the National Convention. If you are interested, please send your name to State Regent Judy Konechne if you didn't put it on the list at State Convention. This will determine if we have enough CDA sisters for a bus or not.



### COME, CREATOR SPIRIT

**O Holy Spirit, by whose breath,  
 life rises vibrant out of death;  
 come to create, renew, inspire;  
 come, kindle in our hearts your fire.**

**You are the seeker's sure resource,  
 of burning love the living source,  
 protector in the midst of strife,  
 the giver and the Lord of life.**

**In you God's energy is shown,  
 to us your varied gifts make known.  
 Teach us to speak, teach us to hear;  
 yours is the tongue and yours the ear.**

**Flood our dull senses  
 with your light;  
 in mutual love our hearts unite.  
 Your power the whole creation fills;  
 confirm our weak, uncertain wills.**

**From inner strife grant us release;  
 turn nations to the ways of peace.  
 To fuller life your people bring  
 that as one body we may sing;**

**Praise to the Father,  
 Christ, his Word,  
 and to the Spirit: God the Lord,  
 to whom all honor, glory be  
 both now and for eternity.**

Amen

Lord, teach us to pray...  
 Luke 11:2



### Robes Survey

We are having a good response to the Robes Survey but many more are needed to get a good understanding of how the membership feels about **t h i s !**

If you haven't filled out the survey yet, go to the National website to fill out the survey. Responses are due by January 31, 2024.

Questions asked include your thoughts on if CDA should continue to use the current style of ceremonial robes or go with a sash or medallion to wear with either a white dress or top/slacks combination in black and white colors. There is also space for additional comments.

Speak up— be heard. Let your National Officers know how you feel.

Helene Shepard





I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I am Joy Kaliszuk of Sioux Falls, SD. I am both honored and humbled to be taking over the duty of the Military Project Chair of our State Charities and Projects. Colleen Leer was a dear friend of mine and I have very "big shoes" to fill!!!

A little about me...

I served in the U.S. Army from 1986 to 1988, in the Signal Corp. I have first-hand knowledge of Military Sexual Trauma, as well as Post Traumatic Syndrome (PTSD). Neither of which cut my career short, I was injured on active duty and that ended my career in the Military.

It is my strong desire to serve our Lord Jesus Christ with my experiences. Therefore, I am honored to reach my fellow soldiers, as well as Military Spouses, with our prayers, to share our donations and other little ways that we can let them know that they are both loved and remembered in our prayers.

I can be reached by email or cell phone; I would love to come by to visit your court and am also able to do meetings through Video.

In Unity and Charity,

Joy Kaliszuk  
SD CDA Military Projects Chair  
[joy.kaliszuk167@gmail.com](mailto:joy.kaliszuk167@gmail.com)  
(605) 214-6218



Hello, I am Joan Grim from the Gregory Court St Frances #547. I am currently serving as Vice Regent of my court, and recently accepted the office of District Deputy over the courts of Winner, Colome and Gregory. When I attended the State Chairman and District Deputy training in Woonsocket on August 12th, I found out that my district also includes Chamberlain and Wagner!

This is a brand-new venture in my CDA career, having been a member of Court St Frances # 547 for almost 46 years. The first 15-20 years of my membership in Gregory, I was basically inactive as I was working as a full-time nurse and raising my family. When my 3 children were all in school, I became more involved in CDA, and was urged to take office by one of our late members, Doris Berens, a former state board member. Since that time, I have served in all five local court offices for multiple terms.

I retired from my 47-year nursing career in June of 2021. I was then very busy helping to plan Gregory's Centennial Anniversary of our charter on August 1st of 2021. Our actual charter date was 10/20/1920, but the covid pandemic made it necessary for us to postpone the celebration.

I am nervous, but excited about taking on this new role in CDA! I sent letters to each of the 5 courts that I am DD for, and I've already scheduled the Financial Review for this October at the Winner and Gregory courts. I will contact the other 3 courts in the next week or so to find out when they are ready to do the same. If anyone wishes to contact me, my cell phone number is 605-830-9384 and you can call or text.

Please leave a message if calling as my phone blocks unknown numbers. My email address is [rj\\_grim@hotmail.com](mailto:rj_grim@hotmail.com) and my mailing address is

Joan Grim  
28663 SD Highway 47  
Gregory SD 57533



### Financial Reviews Reminder:

Just a reminder to do a financial review. Notify your District Deputy to attend the review if she is available. Forward a copy to the National office and email copies to your DD, State Regent, and State Secretary Mary Kay Zimmerman. Thank you for being attentive to this and having it completed by October 31st.



The State was turned down for decorating a tree at the Capital this year unless someone bows out then we may be asked to do one. For now – we will not be decorating this year.



### REMINDER of dues increase:

National raised dues last fall to \$18.00/year (\$9.00 each fall and spring).

State dues will increase this fall to \$7.00 per member (\$3.50 each fall and spring).

Total for National and State dues is **\$25.00 per year**. There is also an insurance fee that is charged to each court for membership.

The National Projects and Charities form has been updated. Be sure to pull the current Charity form from the South Dakota CDA Website under forms when submitting funds for Charities.

Covenant House was removed from the National Charities. The current form is dated 8-23-2023





## Across the State

### THANK YOU

To Court St. Thomas Aquinas #1949 for baking & serving pies for the Clergy Days supper on October 3rd in Chamberlain. Ct. St. Thomas #1533 provided the ice cream & cool whip.



Those serving from the Madison court were: Vickie Walters, Marilyn Martin, State Regent Judy Konechne (Kimball), Marilyn Halgerson, Lori Cunningham (Aberdeen) and Juanita Flemmings.



## Family

"The Christian family is a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father and the Son in the Holy Spirit. In the procreation and education of children it reflects the Father's work of creation. It is called to partake in the prayer and sacrifice of Christ. Daily prayer and the reading of the Word of God strengthen it in charity. The Christian family has an evangelizing and missionary task." (CC2205)

A true family provides its members with emotional and spiritual kinship through: shared values, beliefs, traditions, common experiences, activities and unconditional love. Courts should continue to strengthen family relations by interacting with one another in service and work of the family community. Families praying together, working together and playing together will fully encompass the Circle of Love Program. Some suggestions are:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| Family Rosary                             | Family Film Nights |
| Summer Dinner Events                      | Talent Show        |
| Pajama Night with Favorite Author         | Museum Trips       |
| Park Events                               | Family Game Nights |
| First Communion or Confirmation Breakfast |                    |

*"Whatever you do for your family, your children, your husband, your wife, you do for God. All we do, our prayers, our work, our suffering, is for Jesus."*

*-Mother Teresa*

One of the many blessings of being a CDA member is the many friendships and prayers received throughout our lives and for eternity! This group of CDA Sisters gathered to lead the Rosary and attend the funeral Mass for Colleen Leer, State Military Chairman and Court Our Lady of Fatima Financial Secretary. For many of her 22 years of membership, Colleen was an absent, yet active member, sending her dues and donations and even Christmas goodies and jellies for our annual bake sale! She was fulfilling her years as a US Marine. At her retirement and relocation to SD, she said 'yes' to many requests from her CDA sisters, and participated in National, State, and Local Catholic Daughters' events as well as leadership roles. She will be missed and hard to replace in our hearts, and in our Court activities.



Front, right to left: Joy Kaliszuk, Camille Dunnick, Diane Albee, Diane Schurr, State Secretary Mary Kay Zimmerman, JoAnn Schaefers (Colleen's mother), Deborah Burdick, Maria Azevado, National Director Brenda Anderson, and Darla Schaefers.

Back row: Carol Stoecker, Dianna Runge, State Regent Judy Konechne, Kaye Bjorkman, Lori Kalkman, State 1st Vice Michelle Sage, Carol Liller, Cheryl Schaefers, Maureen Wernsmann.

Not pictured but present were: Karen Schaefers, Jan Melius and Susi Odden.



## Happy Court Anniversaries

Court	City	Anniversary	Years
St. Agnes #687	Vermillion	October 12	102
St. Frances #547	Gregory	October 17	103
Our Lady of Peace #1708	Flandreau	November 13	68
Our Lady of the Rosary #2561	Dakota Dunes	November 13	18
Marie Goretti #1584	Colome	November 18	69
Rose of Lima #700	Wagner	November 20	102
St. Rita #916	Rapid City	November 23	99
St. Pius X #1827	Waubay/ Webster	November 29	64
St. Mary #1423	Redfield	December 1	77
St. Teresa of Avila #2325	Beresford	December 3	34
St. Thomas Aquinas #1949	Madison	December 5	58
Immaculate Conception #582	Aberdeen	December 12	103

Best Wishes and Blessings to each of you!

Court Madonna # 1952, Plankinton Members gathered on June 29th to share a farewell meal with Fr. Terry Weber. A service project followed the meal as we spent the afternoon cleaning and organizing in the church rectory to prepare it for the arrival of our new priest, Father Randy Phillips.



**Be Faithful in Waiting for God's Timing**



Saint Patricia of Sioux Falls Ct #271 served 116 adults and 35 children at the Banquet West in Sioux Falls. It was such a blessing to help share a meal with these families.



Court Our Lady of Fatima #1518 members celebrating the 70th anniversary of membership for JoAnn Schaefer and 60th anniversary of membership for Delores Martinmaas (not able to attend).

From right to left, Regent Cheryl Schaefer, JoAnn Schaefer, Vice Regent Lori Kalkman, Maria Azevedo, Recording Secretary JoAnn Aesoph, Treasurer Darla Schaefer, District Deputy Maureen Wernsmann. JoAnn served nearly every office at the local level and as a District Deputy and State Regent for South Dakota. She was named SD CDA Member of the Year in 2015. She also served as a National Director.

### EAST RIVER COURTS - CHAPLIN updates

Many of you had a change of Priests in your parish in July. With there being a group-based set of Priests for the Pastorate, be sure to visit with your Pastor and find out who will be your Court Chaplain. Then, if there is a change, send updated information to National, State Secretary and State Regent so all areas are updated for sending communications out.

Thank you!



### EDUCATION CONTEST THEMES for 2023-2024

- \* How does my love shine for others? -OR-
- \*God's Love and Kindness will shine upon us like the sun that rises in the sky. Luke 1:78

The forms and instructions will be sent to the Regents in the Fall National mailing. CDA members are encouraged to submit poetry, art, or photography!

## PRAYER FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

DEAR GOD, THANK YOU FOR THE EXAMPLE OF THE SAINTS. I DESIRE TO JOIN IN THEIR COMPANY, WORSHIPING YOU FOREVER IN HEAVEN. PLEASE HELP ME FOLLOW THEIR FOOTSTEPS, AND YOURS, JESUS CHRIST.

PLEASE HELP ME TO CONFORM MYSELF TO YOUR IMAGE, SEEKING YOUR WILL IN ALL THINGS, AS THE SAINTS DID. PLEASE HELP ME TO DEVOTE MYSELF, AND ALL THAT I DO, TO YOUR GLORY, AND TO THE SERVICE OF MY NEIGHBORS. **AMEN.**



The last time we changed from daylight saving time, a priest reminded his church family: “For those who habitually show up 15 minutes late to Mass, allow me to remind you that tonight is the night you set your clock back 45 minutes.”

Remember to change your clocks on Sunday, November 5th— enjoy an extra hour of sleep but don't be late for Mass!



## Spirituality Contest Information from Jo and Diane

We mentioned a Contest earlier for each Court. These are our suggested rules.

1. List all Marian apparitions.
2. List date or dates of occurrence.
3. List to whom she appeared
4. In what country was the appearance.
5. Mary's message.

Entries are due March 31, 2024 submitted by email to Joan Krause at

teddy715bear@gamil.com or by regular mail to:

Joan Krause, 3103Willowbend Road;

Rapid City, SD 57703.

The winning Court will be announced in May and will win a prize. In case of a tie, entries will be decided by a drawing from complete and accurate entries.

