

Our Lady of the Prairie News

South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

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Volume 61, Issue 3



A Good Time Had by ALL!

The 53rd Biennial State Convention was a huge success! CDA sisters from across the state were treated to enriching workshops, spiritual enhancement, delightful entertainment, and fabulous friendships. Everyone embraced the theme, ***“Open Your Hearts to God's Love and Listen to Him”*** and renewed her commitment to unity and charity.

The hosting courts did a phenomenal job! The courts are: Hot Springs, Rapid City, Piedmont, Faith, Lemmon, Winner and Gregory. Special thanks to convention co-chairs Julie Hill and Deb DeFries of Ct. Our Lady of Lourdes #2056.

Throughout this issue of Our Lady of the Prairie News, you will find many articles about the convention—a pictorial recap is below. Make plans to attend the 2027 convention in Mitchell!

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

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Newsletter:

SDCDA1918news@gmail.com

Web Page:

SDCDA1918web@gmail.com

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Next State Newsletter

Article Deadline:

August 20, 2025



Congratulations on the Court of the Year - Court Madonna #1952 Plankinton

Members of the court attending the convention are from L to R: Jo Larsen, Casey Schmidt, Mary Mayclin (Regent), and Susan Urban.



Congratulations Halie Kirwan - SD CDA Member Achievement Award

Pictured with Halie is her husband Colby and their two children.

*"Open Your Heart to God's Love and
Listen to Him"*



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State Regent—Judy Konechne

Greetings my dear sisters in Christ,

The 2025 Convention is behind us and it was a joy to hear the great comments and see the laughter, camaraderie, and joy that was had by all!! I want to thank Ct. Our Lady of Lourdes #2056 of Hot Springs for hosting and for all the helper courts of Rapid City, Piedmont, Faith, Lemmon, Gregory, and Winner. You all did a fantastic job for everyone to enjoy. I also want to thank all those who attended and hope that you take back great information to your courts. What a wonderful joy to see 28 first timers at the convention and to hear their thoughts about what they experienced. It is not just the State Board that makes the convention a successful one. It is each and everyone one of you that contributes to the success of it by assisting, attending, making new acquaintances and taking information back to your court. I hope those of you that attended the convention found it inspiring and will encourage your current members to become more active and involved. They may not be able to be involved in all your activities but as they join one or two - it makes the court stronger.

As I turn over the leadership to the new State Board, I ask that you pray for them and give them your prayers and support for the next two years. I know they will carry on and continue to lead you all to new horizons and new ideas. I have enjoyed reading all of your newsletters and seeing what great things you are doing. If you would please continue to send me your newsletters as I would really enjoy reading them. I will have more time now! Email: judykonechne@gmail.com.

My heart is bursting with gratitude and deep appreciation to all that made the last 4 years as State Regent a success and a blessing to serve you. At the convention and since, I have received so many kind words and comments from many of you. I am deeply blessed to have all of you as my 'Sisters' of CDA and will continue to cherish the friendships we have made over the years. I look forward to seeing/working with you in the future. I feel I have lived by my motto of "Open Your Heart to God's Love and Listen to Him" over the past 4 years.

I now thank God for all his guidance he has shared with me to lead you. We all need to think about doing our best and living out what the Lord is asking us to do day by day as we do not know what the future holds for any of us. Help each other and encourage each other. I have had lots of wonderful CDA Sisters to help and encourage me along the way thru prayers and just saying - "what can I do to help" or "let me know if you need help with anything." You all have made the load lighter.

I look forward to seeing you at the many activities in the future be it a celebration, the next State Convention, National Convention, starting a new court or just out and about.

May God bless all of you - my dear sisters in Christ!!!

Outgoing State Regent - Judy



State Chaplain — Fr. Jim Friedrich

Dear Catholic Daughters,

I am glad for having been with you and serving as best I could as your state chaplain. I'm late getting this final column in: I don't know the solution to being swamped with too many things; I consider this part of taking up the cross. Many others may feel similarly. So I do have two observations: As I write, it is May 1st, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, and one option for the First Reading is Col 3:14-17 in which St. Paul beckons us, "whatever you do, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus". This is one focus for me, that whatever I do, I do it for the Lord Jesus. This is part of the Morning Offering to begin each day. Secondly, I think of yesterday's first reading from Acts 5:17-26 in which the angel frees the apostles from jail and directs them to return to the temple area "and tell the people everything about this life". Yes, the angel's words indicate that Christianity shapes our whole life. Similarly, these first Christians are referred to as 'followers of the Way' several times in Acts (9:2, 16:17, 18:26, 19:9, 23, 24:14, 22). I remember a quote to the effect that being totally in love with Christ is a most practical thing because it shapes every part of one's life: what gets you up in the morning, shapes your priorities, deepens your friendships, brings understanding, hope and peace, and gives you rest at night. May we all be so blessed!

Peace, Fr. Jim



1st Vice State Regent — Michelle Sage

Dear CDA Sisters,

I want to thank you for the support you have given me over the years as I served you as the 1st Vice State Regent. Your prayers for me as I transition to the office of State Regent are greatly appreciated. It fills my heart with joy this Easter season to be so loved by you and I know that you will be there for me in the future.

For those that attended the State Convention in Spearfish in April, it was good to see you all again. Although we were inside for most of the weekend, the weather was pleasant if you didn't mind a "little" SD wind on the drive out and back home. I want to express my thanks to all the ladies "west river" that worked so diligently on making the convention an enjoyable time for all. And I look forward to seeing everyone in Mitchell in 2027.

Our prayers were extended to Bishop Scott Bullock at the passing of his father while we were meeting on Friday. At the time of this writing, we are all mourning the passing of Pope Francis. We look to the Holy Spirit to guide the Cardinals of the Conclave in the selection of the next successor of St. Peter. That he may continue the work of Pope Francis by being a champion of the poor, securing justice for all and promoting peace around the world. May Eternal Rest be Granted onto Him.



2nd Vice State Regent — JoAnn Hoffman

Greetings My Sisters in CDA.

I got a call during convention that my Husband had been taken to the hospital. I gave my apologies and left for a 5 hour drive home, praying many rosaries.

At first, they thought he might have had a heart attack or stroke. Thankfully it wasn't either. Your prayers carried Dave through his battle in the hospital; I firmly believe this. Dave spent 2 weeks in the hospital fighting a staph infection with strong IV's 3 times a day. He had several MRI's trying to find the source of infection, a heart TEE test, and a bone marrow extraction. Faith got us through all the challenges thrown at us. I put my trust in the Lord. He answered my prayers. Your texts, cards and emails was a great support. You all are the best. *CDA prayer warriors— victorious.*

Congratulations to the ladies of the Black Hills courts for hosting a fantastic convention. I can't wait for 2027 in Mitchell. I'm sure they'll have some CORNY things for us. It was so good to visit with many of you while I was at the convention. That is what coming to convention is all about, making new friends and catching up with those we haven't seen for a few years.

As I transition to 1st State CDA Vice Regent, I thank the great group of ladies who facilitate all our State Projects and Charites. We have a few positions to fill yet.— is it YOU?? I had talked to some of you about taking a State chairmanship and then I was called home and I never finished the conversation with you. Pray about how you can be that person to say YES!

Thank you Lord for the beautiful rain.

Blessing to All.



State Board

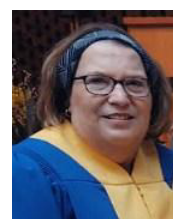
State Treasurer — Carolyn Downs

Farewell and good wishes to each of you as your State Treasurer. I'll not say Goodbye, as you will hear from me in the future as your Past Regents Treasurer and as a District Deputy. I do want to thank you for the privilege of serving as your State Treasurer. It has allowed me to travel to celebrate and meet many of you at anniversaries and special events in your courts. It has also opened my eyes to see how our South Dakota courts contribute so very generously in our communities, our state and nation.

Our State and National CDA could not exist without the work and support of each individual court, and in South Dakota we can truly be pleased that we have helped the Catholic Daughters of the Americas stay strong. I honestly encourage all members to step up when asked to fill positions in your court or on a state level – you will feel our Mother Mary's guidance and the Lord beside you in your work and you will have the support of your CDA sisters along the way.

Monsignor Jim Doyle stated to me once, "When someone asks you to do something, they already have the confidence that you can do it or they wouldn't have asked you." Believe in yourself as others believe in your abilities!

Peace to you!



State Secretary — Mary Kay Zimmerman

The best thing about State Conventions is that you get to renew old friendships and create new ones. I look forward to this each time. Conventions really show how diverse our memberships are, from the newbies to the old-timers (jokingly). The enthusiasm from all can be quite contagious. I feel that if you can come home and use just one thing that you have learned from other members/courts and bring this back to your own court, this is a win-win for your own court.

Even though I have only served for one year as your State Secretary, I was looking forward to speaking with members that I only have contact through email or phone. The Spring 2025 State Membership dues have been sent out to each court. The calendar year for your courts is fast approaching, but being Catholic Daughters is a year-round commitment to yourself, your members, your church and to your community.

National News



NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER- Brenda Anderson

NEW By-Law Books are available from the National Office. They cost \$5.50, and includes postage; you can use PayPal or a Court Check to order. EVERY court needs a minimum of two copies, one for the Regent and Vice-Regent; but it is highly recommended that every officer have a copy.

Program Idea-Go through the Local section at your meetings, one area at each meeting to 'educate' your members on the by-laws we are following. Everyone needs to know what is going on and what the bylaws actually say.

Writing a By-law – Often the Bylaws are misunderstood and we feel there should be changes made. NOW is the time to review the current (2024 bylaws) and take action to make changes if you, your court and your State Court adopts. Any bylaw change, addition, or deletion can have a starting point from the Campus, Local, and State Courts as well as from a State Board or National bylaw committee. These are all called Bylaw amendments.

WHAT TO DO:

- LOOK at the bylaws, and discuss these. The bylaw form asks for the rational (or reason) why you feel this change needs to be made. The form to use is in the "Tools of the Trade", Section 4 (State), attachment 23 or page number 4-62.
- If a bylaw amendment is desired then it must first be passed at the Local or Campus level and presented at the STATE convention to be considered, discussed, voted on, and adopted prior to submitting by Jan 15, 2026 for the next National Convention in 2026 in Iowa. This gives every member a voice.
- A State Court may also write an amendment, but it must be written and voted on by the State Board, and then submitted to National by the deadlines provided.
- NOW is the Time for everyone to have a voice. A good bylaw is one that keeps the same rules at all levels for consistency. A good bylaw will make conducting CDA business easier as direction is given. Good bylaws make our Order stronger and more organized. ALL bylaw amendments submitted to the National Bylaw committee will be considered, but may not be brought forward to the Convention floor for discussion; however, the sponsor of the bylaw has an option to bring it to the National convention floor for discussion.

DEADLINES for submission of bylaw amendments to your State Regent for presentation at the State Convention will be used. ALL adopted amendments will be sent to National bylaw committee.

ALL Approved amendments must be signed, by the State Regent and State Secretary or by the Local Regent and Recording Secretary. Local courts need to send a copy of the amendments proposed with the rationale to the State Regent. Five (5) copies of each amendment shall be sent to the State Bylaws Chair with one amendment per page.

Also please send one copy to National Bylaw Chrm:

Brenda Anderson

265 Augusta Circle

Dakota Dunes SD 57049



THREE national representatives attended the SD convention: Brenda Anderson– National Secretary/Treasurer; Nancy Bambenek, Second Vice National Regent; and Barb Wiechmann, National Director. Blessed to have such wonderful ladies supporting South Dakota CDA!



Membership Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we venture into growing our membership, we come before You asking for Your guidance, wisdom and support. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make contact with others. Remind us that all we do, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of your kingdom, and for the service of humanity. Guide our hearts...our words...our actions, to be a shining light for all to see. May the face of Christ shine through. We ask Your Mother, our patroness, by her powerful intercession, to be with us as we witness to others. We ask all these things in Your most Holy name. Amen.

-Dawn Fortenberry

National Chairman of Membership and Development



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Medallion white back-
ground and blue letter-
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Introducing our State Board...



Cheryl Schaefer, Ct Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient- State Treasurer; JoAnn Hoffman, Ct Sacred Heart-#280, Parkston - 1st Vice State Regent; Michele Sage, Ct St Agnes #618, Brookings - State Regent; Jan Evans, Ct St Rita #916, Rapid City - 2nd Vice State Regent; Mary Kay Zimmerman, Ct St Agnes #687 Vermillion - State Secretary



I want to thank my DD's for the 2023-2025 year who termed out= Tina Roth, Jan Kristensen, Janet Lynch, Michele Hulm, Maureen (Mo) Wernsmann, and Jan Evans who will our 2nd State CDA Vice Regent. Welcome to the ladies who have accepted a DD position for 2025-2027= Joan Grim (2nd term), Mary Ann Whitman, Carolyn Downs, Lila Fischer, Cindy Riddle. You will do great. We need few more.



Members of Court Madonna #1952 served a meal of walking tacos and bars to the youth before their religion classes the evening of April 9th. Pictured are members that helped served.

Jesus Changes Everything

State News

Past Regents met at the State Convention and enjoyed a meal and held a meeting to elect new officers. President- Theresa Kocer, Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls; Vice President- Patti Loeffler, Ct Willard #967, Yankton; and Secretary/Treasurer- Carolyn Downs, Ct Mother Teresa #2510, Sioux Falls.

On March 20th, St. James Court #2757 held its second annual Ladies Spring Tea. Begun by founding member Peggy Hanzlik, the Tea has quickly become a popular event among women of all ages. The Ladies Spring Tea welcomes every Christian sister to a Saturday morning of food, fellowship and faith, as it includes a scriptural-based program aimed at growing our understanding and practice of Christ's teachings.

This year the Court asked a popular local speaker, and Success Coach, Helen Eimers to give a talk on the lessons in The Parable of the Sower. Helen spoke on how our modern lives, as women, mothers and wives, can be seen in terms of the different soils identified by Christ Jesus. Like last year, when Peggy and Mary Beth Freidel demonstrated lessons from the faith-building book "Full Accessories of God" by DeLyn Wagenknecht, attendees were given handouts and time to reflect on the messages, or to discuss the ideas presented with the other women in attendance.

Spring-themed decorations, included lowerpots, seed packets, plants and the purple color of the Lenten season. When the ladies arrived, they were invited to write their name and birthdate (not year!) on an envelope, and insert a tea bag. At the conclusion of the Tea, each woman selected an envelope, not her own, with the name and a date in the next year when she could sit, sip and pray for another Christian woman.



WE WALK BY
Faith
NOT BY SIGHT
CORINTHIANS 5:7



Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

BECAUSE NOAH WAS ALWAYS STANDING ON THE DECK

Across the State



COL Family Awards - by Bernice Cizadlo

1st place Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau
2nd place St James #2757, Chamberlain
3rd place St Ann #1121, Pierre
Hon. Mention St Rita #524, Watertown

COL Leadership by Aisha Talley

1st place Madonna #1952, Plankinton
2nd place St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner
3rd place St Patrick #1699, Kimball

COL Legislation by Mary Ellen Aamot

1st place Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids
2nd place Our Lady of Peace #1708 Flandreau
3rd place Madonna #1952

COL Quality of Life by Gloria Bauske

1st place St Thomas Aquinas #1949, Madison
2nd place St Agnes #618, Brookings
3rd place Our Lady of Peace #1708, Flandreau

COL Youth/JCDA by Theresa Kocer

1st place St Rose of Lima #700, Wagner
2nd place St James #2757 Chamberlain
3rd place St Mary #1423 Redfield

Newsletter Contest - by Rene Brand

Category I, Division I

1st place St Rita 534, Watertown
2nd place St Rose of Lima 700, Wagner

Category I, Division II

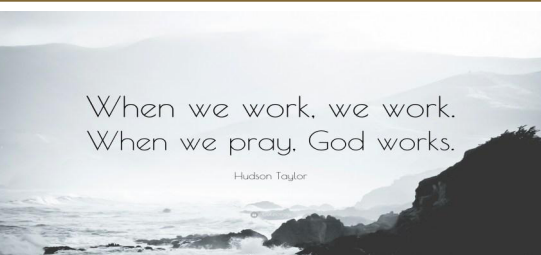
1st place Sancta Maria 368, Dell Rapids
2nd place Mother Teresa 2510, Sioux Falls
3rd place Our Lady of Peace 1708, Flandreau

Website Contest Winner - by Kim Euker

1st place Our Lady of Wisdom #2799 -
Brookings Campus Court

Face Book Contest Winner - by Kim Euker

1st place Our Lady of Wisdom #2799 -
Brookings Campus Court



Thank you for the opportunity to serve as co-chairs of the Spiritual Enhancement Spoke of the Circle of Love. We found it challenging to find suggestions that would work for all courts in the State – no matter the size. We hope we have succeeded.

Those courts receiving certificates at the State Convention for their entries in the Spiritual Enhancement Spoke of the Circle of Love for February 1, 2024- February 1, 2025 were as follows:

First Place: Court St. Ann #1121, Pierre, SD for their Befriender Ministry. This was a program where court members visited residents of the Nursing Home weekly for the entire year. They prayed with them and enjoyed getting to know the residents.

Second Place: St. Katharine Drexel #2516 of Bowdle-Roscoe-Hosmer, SD for their THINK prayer cards. They handed out the THINK prayer cards in their parishes suggesting that the prayer “Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen” be said whenever a THINK sign was spotted on our highways.

Third Place: Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs, SD for the placement of a stained glass window of Jesus kneeling “In the Agony in the Garden” put into a beautiful wooden frame which was placed on the front door of their church inside a cross opening.

Honorable Mention: Our Lady of Fatima #1518, Orient, SD for their Seminarian Support for two brothers (grandsons and great grandsons of past members) on their journey. They send money for their missionary works, letters of encouragement and prayers. Each month two members are assigned to write to each of them.

For the previous year February 1, 2023-February 1, 2024 we asked all Courts to list as many of the Marian Apparitions as they could with descriptions of the setting, who was involved and what was said or promised at each. With over 500+ apparitions to choose from we hoped to get a variety of answers. We had limited participation.

First Place: Court St. Rita #534, Watertown, SD. They listed more than a dozen with good descriptions of each.

Second Place: St. Katharine Drexel #2516, Bowdle-Roscoe-Hosmer, SD listed half a dozen apparitions.

Sincerely,

Joan Krause co-chair

Diane Ange co-chair



THANK YOU THANK YOU

for the beautiful Black Hills Gold/Silver necklace and earring set I received from the courts/members as an outgoing gift.

You are all a blessing in my heart.

Outgoing State Regent– Judy



Happy Court Anniversaries

Court	City	Anniversary	Years
Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha #2635	Faith	May 2	15
Our Lady of Lourdes #2056	Hot Springs	May 10	53
Little Flower #1054	Highmore	May 15	98
St. Thomas #1533	Humboldt	May 16	75
Willard #967	Yankton	May 17	100
St. Agnes #618	Brookings	May 22	104
St. Patrick #1699	Kimball	June 5	70
Mary Imelda #1014	Winner	June 6	99
Sacred Heart #280	Parkston	June 11	109
St. Katherine Drexel #2516	Roscoe	June 12	22
St. Joseph #2754	Miller	July 1	6
St. Elizabeth #1362	Colman	July 16	81
St. Rita #534	Watertown	July 25	105
Our Lady of Fatima #1518	Orient	August 14	76
Santa Maria #368	Dell Rapids	September 7	106
St. James #2757	Chamberlain	September 9	6
Mother Teresa #2510	Sioux Falls	September 10	23

Best Wishes and Blessings to each of you!

I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE
LORD
because of his righteousness.

A new priest was nervous about his first sermon at the church. As he stepped up to the pulpit, he fumbled with the microphone and accidentally knocked it over. Flustered, he muttered, "There's something wrong with this microphone."

The congregation, well-trained in responsive readings, immediately replied, "And also with you."

When God steps in,
Miracles Happen!

An Unexpected Miracle of Mary's Presence

Testimony following the 53rd Biennial South Dakota Catholic Daughters Convention- April Larson, St. Ann Court #1121

Immediately returning to Pierre from the SDCDA Convention - an experience that moved me deeply and opened my heart in ways I'm still reflecting on - I stopped at the grocery store to pick up flowers. I wanted to thank our Court Regent for her leadership and care, and I made sure to include red roses - Mother Mary's flower.

As I walked back to my car, bouquet in hand, I glanced down and felt my heart stop. The small image of Mary, the centerpiece of my gold ring stamped "Italy," had fallen out. I had been wearing it almost daily for the past 3 months as a reminder of her healing love, her presence in my life, and my desire to grow closer to her. And now, during this sacred weekend... it was gone.

But something extraordinary happened. Rather than feeling sorrow or panic, I felt calm. On the drive back from Spearfish, I had been listening to a powerful podcast episode by Fr. Chris Alar titled "Mary: The Gift of Mercy." He spoke of her tenderness, her nearness, and how she intercedes for us in quiet, profound ways. And at the convention, we had been blessed by the words of a Sister who spoke with such wisdom about Mary's grace and her faithful presence.

Losing that image of Mary from my ring, right after that weekend of prayer, fellowship, and devotion - while I was holding roses for someone who had guided our Court in love - did not feel like a loss at all. It felt like a message. A gentle whisper: "I'm not just on your finger. I am with you. I walk with you. I am here, in your day-to-day, in your gratitude, in your giving."

When I arrived home, another quiet miracle greeted me. As I approached the elevator in my building, the door opened - without me pressing the button, and with no one else in sight. It felt like another tender confirmation: "You're not alone. You are home. You belong."

The weekend was filled with powerful testimonies, personal awakenings, and messages I will continue to pray over. But perhaps the clearest sign I received came not through grand gestures, but through the smallest things: the loss of a ring, the choosing of a rose, an elevator door opening. Each moment a whisper of Mary's loving presence.

Thank you to all who made the convention possible. I pray that we may all continue to recognize Mary's gentle miracles in our own lives - and share them, to strengthen the faith of others..

2025 Education Contest Winners

DIVISION 1

ART

1st Place	Celeste Meyer	#1708 Our Lady of Peace, Flandreau
2nd Place	Everly Haines	#1121 St Ann , Pierre
3rd Place	Kallie Zirbel	#1827 Pope Pius X, Webster

POETRY

1st Place	Shaylee Zens	#2453 Margaret Mary, Mitchell
2nd Place	Caroline Zilverberg	#1121 St Ann, Pierre
3rd Place	Mary Clare Purcell	#236 St Christina, Lennox

ESSAY

1st Place	Gage Rezac	#2453 Margaret Mary, Mitchell
2nd Place	Haylee Kramer	#582 Immaculate Conception, Aberdeen
3rd Place	Jackson Hamiel	#916 St Rita, Rapid City

COMPUTER

ART

1st Place	Rhea Diegel	#1121 St Ann, Pierre
2nd Place	Finley Templeton	#916 St Rita , Rapid City

DIVISION 3

ART

1st Place	Kennedy Brown	#2510 Mother Teresa
2nd Place	Logan Kontz	#1708 Our Lady of Peace
3rd Place	Grace Skoog	#2805 Our Lady of Black Hills

POETRY

1st Place	Madison Brown	#2510 Mother Teresa
2nd Place	Jaxon Scheff	#1533 St Thomas
3rd Place	Logan Strand	#1952 Madonna

ESSAY

1st Place	Megan Geraets	#368 Sancta Maria
2nd Place	Kelsey Fischer	#1827 Pope Pius X
3rd Place	Ally Gibson	#2754 St Joseph

MUSIC

1st Place	Sabrina Strand	#1952 Madonna
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PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place	Jaxon Scheff	#1533 St Thomas
2nd Place	Bailey Brueggeman	#2754 St Joseph
3rd Place	Julianna Gaspar	#1708 Lady of Peace

DIVISION 2

ART

1st Place	Camdyn Cox	#2510 Mother Teresa, Sioux Falls
2nd Place	Elizabeth Strand	#1952 Madonna, Plankinton
3rd Place	Hope Skoog	#2805 Lady of The Black Hills, Piedmont

POETRY

1st Place	Elliot Huxford	#916 St Rita, Rapid City
2nd Place	Jeren Scheff	#1533 St Thomas, Humboldt
3rd Place	Hope Skoog	#2805 Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont

ESSAY

1st Place	Sawyer Goeden	#2510 Mother Teresa, Sioux Falls
2nd Place	Mafanta Koroma	#534 St Rita, Watertown
3rd Place	Jeren Scheff	#1523 St Thomas, Humboldt

COMPUTER

ART

1st Place	Michael Picbrel	#534 St Rita, Watertown
2nd Place	Madison Brown	#2510 Mother Teresa, Sioux Falls
3rd Place	Ty Konechne	#1699 St Patrick, Kimball

PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place	Brady Sage	#916 St Rita, Rapid City
2nd Place	Hudson Strand	#1952 Madonna, Plankinton
3rd Place	Jeren Scheff	#1533 St Thomas, Humboldt

DIVISION 4

ART

1st Place	Laura Mayclin	#1952 Madonna
2nd Place	Amanda Konechne	#1699 St Patrick
3rd Place	Jeanne Kirsch	#916 St Rita

POETRY

1st Place	Mary Mayclin	#1952 Madonna
2nd Place	Carol Grode-Hanks	#2453 Margaret Mary
3rd Place	Rene Brand	#916 St Rita

PHOTOGRAPHY

1st Place	Jeanne Kirsch	#916 St Rita
2nd Place	Irma Fees	#2056 Our Lady of Lourdes
3rd Place	Vicki Munson	#2336 St Christina

Congratulations

The More You Know

At convention, the Holy Face of Jesus building project in Alexandria was introduced and many wanted to know more about the concept and funding opportunities. With help from the friends of God, the Carmelite Nuns will build a new chapel dedicated to the Holy Face of Jesus. The Sisters feel called to dedicate their new chapel in honor of the Holy Face of Jesus. This devotion traces its roots to 1844, when the Carmelite nun Sr. Mary of St. Peter received visions from Jesus asking her to promote a devotion to His Holy Face as reparation for sinners.

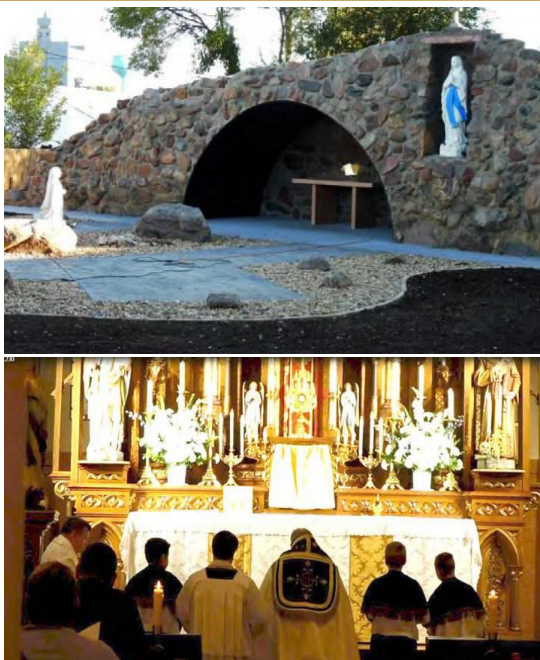
Seven stained glass windows that show the history of the Carmelite order will illuminate the new sacred space. These priceless windows were rescued from St. Clara Catholic Church in Chicago, the former provincial church for the Calced Carmelites in America and Shrine of St. Therese, after a fire nearly destroyed them.

The interiors will be simple and prayerful, in keeping with Carmelite spirituality, but well-proportioned with ample light and warm, natural materials. The new monastery choir will be attached to the chapel with the customary Carmelite grille in place to protect the Sisters' enclosure and privacy. The Sisters will use the choir to participate each day in the Mass and to pray the Divine Office and two hours of mental prayer required by their Holy Rule.

The Monastery is autonomous and receives no financial support from the Diocese or the Order. They depend entirely on donations from supporters like you.

The Church recognizes the magnificent gift that contemplative Sisters give the world. "The community of the monastery of nuns, placed as a city on the mountain top and a light on the lampstand, even in the simplicity of its life, visibly depicts the goal towards which the whole ecclesial community walks, ardent in action and dedicated to contemplation, it advances along the paths of time with eyes fixed on the future recapitulation of everything in Christ." (Cor Orans)
When Jesus spoke to His disciples about the need to evangelize, He told them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers

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The Carmelite Nuns of the Monastery of Our Mother of Mercy and St. Joseph embrace the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, hidden within a silent cloister, to pray for the apostolic and evangelical labors of the Church. They discovered the treasure in the field and gave up everything they had to possess it.



Pilgrimage to the Lourdes Grotto Shrine at Salem. The Catholic Daughters of Court St. Thomas #1533 in Humboldt and Montrose, with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, are celebrating their 75th Anniversary by sponsoring a Pilgrimage to the Lourdes Grotto Shrine in Salem, SD on June 9, 2025.

Everyone is invited to attend. The Shrine is located across from St. Mary Church, 240 W. Vermont Ave., Salem, SD. The Rosary will be recited at 5:00 pm (outside, weather permitting), followed by the Mass, a short Marian Presentation, and Lunch. If planning to attend, RSVP to Jackie Lofswold (605-480-1277) by June 5 to make sure we have food and seating accommodations. You may bring your own chair for outside seating if desired.