Our Lady of the Prairie News

South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas®

You are invited to the 53rd Biennial South Dakota State Convention

The South Dakota Catholic Daughter State Board invites you to join us at our 53rd Biennial State Convention on April 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th, 2025. The theme for the convention is "Open Your Hearts to God's Love and Listen to Him". On the first day, April 10th, you can attend four different workshops. You will have time to reconnect with your CDA sisters, attend daily mass, and have dinner with the Past Regents group, (if you have served in this local office). You won't want to miss this added day to our convention. Many had asked for workshops at our conventions and we hope this additional day will allow you to become better informed about our organization and return home to share the information with your court members.

The hosting courts have been working hard and planning a wonderful event. The courts are: Hot Springs, Rapid City, Piedmont, Faith, Lemmon, Winner and Gregory. Convention co-chairs are Julie Hill and Deb DeFries of Ct. Our Lady of Lourdes #2056. The hospitality room will be open for you to keep hydrated and satisfied. Throughout the convention, there will be time for adoration, meditation, shopping at the CDA store, looking through award winning scrapbooks, viewing education winners entries, and storyboards from the District Deputies and State Chairs.

Committee meetings will be Friday morning with the opening ceremonies and business meeting to start on Friday at 10:00 a.m. The Memorial Mass and new member recognition on Friday will be held at St Joseph Church in Spearfish and the Installation Mass will be held on Saturday afternoon at the convention center. Friday night will be fun-filled with a theme of "Enjoying God's Creations". Come dressed to fish, golf, hike, swim and other adventures you can do in the Hills. It should be a fun night.

Saturday night theme will be "Blessed Mother, Pilgrim of Hope". Dress is cocktail dress or formal, whichever you'd like. Speakers and entertainment are being secured and awards will be presented for the CDA Court of the Year and for the CDA Achievement award along with announcing raffle winners. The convention closing and final remarks will be Sunday, April 13th. Feel free to attend in your comfy clothes to travel back home.

Get your registration forms mailed in as soon as possible and review the convention checklist as you pack your bags. Ask for the Catholic Daughters (CDA) block of rooms for special rates when making hotel reservations at the Spearfish Holiday Inn Convention Center 605-642--4683 or 1-800-999-3541. Once you have voted for delegates at a meeting, be sure to mail/email in the form received from National in November to the State Regent.

Check our state website: www.cdasouthdakota.com/state-conven!on for all things about the convention including forms, updates, timelines, and raffle tickets. We are excited to invite and welcome each of you, our CDA members, to this 53rd Biennial State Convention.

January, 2025 Volume 61, Issue 2



MISSION STATEMENT
Catholic Daughters of the

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.

<u>National Website:</u> www.catholicdaughters.org

<u>State Website:</u> www.cdasouthdakota.com

Do you have news to share? Email your stories and pictures

<u>Newsletter:</u>

SDCDA1918news@gmail.com

<u>Web Page:</u> SDCDA1918web@gmail.com

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Next State Newsletter Article Deadline: April 28, 2025

State Officers

State Chaplain

Rev Jim Friedrich

PO Box 637 Wagner SD 57380 605-384-5518 friim@santel.net

State Regent

Judy Konechne

PO Box 76 Kimball, SD 57355 (605) 680-1558 sdcdaregent@gmail.com

First Vice State Regent

Michele Sage

125 Gilley Ave Brookings, SD 57006 (605) 695-5960 sdcdavice1@gmail.com

Second Vice State Regent

JoAnn Hoffman

PO Box 716 Parkston, SD 57366 605-770-7928 sdcdavice2@gmail.com

State Secretary

Mary Kay Zimmerman

616 Sterling Street Vermillion, SD 57069 605-638-0439 sdcdasec@gmail.com

State Treasurer

Carolyn Downs

2401 S Arbor Ave Sioux Falls, SD 57106 605-361-3131 sdcdatreasurer@gmail.com

State Newsletter Editor

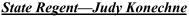
Carol Grode-Hanks

sdcda1918news@gmail.com

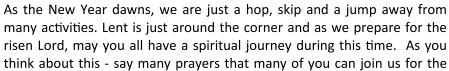
Website Manager

Amanda Konechne

sdcda1918web@gmail.com



Dear CDA Sisters in Christ,
As the New Year dawns



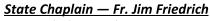
53rd biennial State Convention in Spearfish. There are many items related to the convention in this newsletter. Please make sure you look at the listing of 'to do's and to bring". Start doing the check off now so you will have it all accomplished before convention. Much of this can be done by members and does not all fall on the Regent or just officers of the court.

As the Pope has chosen a motto of "Pilgrims of Hope', he states that 'prayer to renew our desire to be in the presence of the Lord, to listen to him and adore him and thank him for the many gifts. Let us be open to receive the outpouring of God's grace. To me this is also a great way to pray that we all need prayers in our lives and that we need the 'Sisters in Christ' to gain the spirit in our lives to be kind to everyone as we do not know what that person is going thru.

As we plan to gather for the convention, may we become closer to each other and join our previous made sisters and make many new sisters that are available to help us when we need a special someone to talk to or ask for additional prayers. We hope to see many of you at the convention.

Until we meet, may God richly bless each and every one of you as the days unfold throughout the year.

Regent Judy

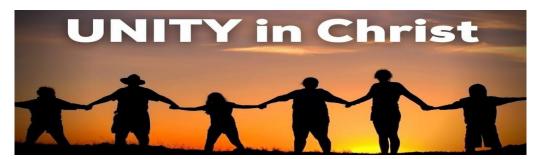


Dear Catholic Daughters,

I expect most church calendars would show Jan 18-25 as Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. As I recall, this goes back nearly 100 years and it always ends with the Jan 25 Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. There is a published Prayer Service which the Ministerial Assoc. will do in Wagner on the 22nd. Each year in the thorough series of intercessions in the Good Friday Service is

22nd. Each year in the thorough series of intercessions in the Good Friday Service is one for Christian Unity. How unfortunate the obstacles to unity! How blessed to see past them, to recognize where God's grace shines brightly in another and to rejoice in the occasions where the fullness of the Catholic faith is manifest. Think of Jesus' prayer that 'all may be one' in John 17:21. With many Christians, we profess the Nicene Creed (for Catholics every Sunday at Mass); let us learn how the fullness of "one, holy, catholic and apostolic" faith is found in the Catholic Church. Unity is key to us in CDA; in addition to a Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, may it be daily in our prayer and lives!

Peace, Fr. Jim





<u> 1st Vice State Regent — Michelle Sage</u>

Dear CDA Sisters,

Happy New Year 2025!! This new year will bring new changes for us all as we will meet in April to elect our new leadership team at the State Convention in Spearfish. We on the current state board are

working diligently to make sure this convention is enjoyable and affordable for all to attend. We look forward to seeing you in April.

Change can be a daunting task for many of us. We need to meet those changes with an open mind and heart. Change builds character, strengthens our resolve and focuses our minds on the task at hand. These are all good traits of a CDA leader on the local, state and national level. We will be looking for CDA members to step up to fill various positions on the District Deputy team and as State Chairwomen for our Circle of Love and State Projects. Please with the help of the Holy Spirit, prayerfully consider becoming a member of the state leadership team. We Need YOU!!

Take this upcoming season of Lent, to reflect on your level of activity within Catholic Daughters. Are you actively participating? or are you letting someone else do all the work? Are you a "Martha or a Mary?" Don't get me wrong, we need both to be the best Catholic organization that women will be drawn to, but if we don't have the "Martha's" to plan our events and meetings, the "Mary's" will have nothing to pray for and learn from!



<u>2nd Vice State Regent — JoAnn Hoffman</u>

We pray, O Blessed Mary, purest and bright, protect and lead us through this year ahead. Guide us in our thoughts and actions, as we strive to help those in need. We lift up those who most need our help. Lift the blinders from our eyes.

The state convention is fast approaching and many of the deadlines for submission are less than a month away. All South Dakota Catholic Daughter Court of the Year; and SD CDA Achievement Award entries need to be sent to me and post marked by February 15th. Every court should be submitting an entry. You do wonderful things in your court, your parish, and your communities. Toot your own horn. If you don't enter you can never win. The entry guidelines are on the state webpage under Forms. Follow the guidelines very closely because the judges don't know who anyone is, so you need to tell them about your court.

The CDA Achievement Award is a great honor to recognize one of your members who have been active in your court. Jan Kristensen of Mitchell Court Margaret Mary #2453 would never have dreamed of such an award. Surprise one of your members this way. Hats off the Madison Court St. Thomas Aquinas #1949 for court of the year last convention! Please take the time this year to submit entries for someone in your court and enter your court too!

As my term draws to a close the office of 2nd State Vice Regent, it will be open for someone new to take the position. Please pray about how you can serve your state organization and state board.





State Treasurer — Carolyn Downs

The saying "Out with the Old, In with the New" is often repeated at the beginning of a new year!

Well, with Catholic Daughters, we want to keep our members (including the old, such as me) and bring in new members! Let's all work diligently and pray that 2025 will yield us many new members, as well as being grateful for the "old" members who have faithfully lived the mission of CDA!

I look forward to hearing of the new winners in our Education contests, new projects coming forth in our Circle of Love reports, new requests for rosters from the National Office for review of court memberships, that every court has paid their State & National Dues, and perhaps some planning for a new Lenten Retreat. But most of all, I am looking forward to our new State CDA Convention in Spearfish in April to renew "old" friendships and make "new" friends! We will be electing new State Officers at Convention and I know that the ladies have been busy planning some new and fun events, plus what a great time to enjoy the beauty of the Black Hills!

I pray for a Healthy & Happy New Year for each of you!

State Secretary — Mary Kay Zimmerman

Happy New Year Everyone!

2025 is going to be my new beginning of ME. Thank you for all the cards and prayers I received while ill. I'm back on track and looking forward to what the year holds going forward. I

don't know what I would have done if I didn't have my friends, family, CDA sisters and my church family.

Just a reminder that I need to receive copies of your Financial Reviews as well as any Membership changes: adds, deletes and address changes. I have a new and greater understanding just how committed the state officers throughout the years have been to the Catholic Daughters organization. This group of women really want what is best for all the local courts to achieve their goals. Normally, as local officers, we are focused on our own court which sometimes feels overwhelming. Looking our for the entire state has definitely been a learning experience as my first term as a State Officer.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the State convention in Spearfish.



Blessings to all!

National News



NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Hello South Dakota CDA members!
It is an honor and a joy for me to be your National Supervisor for the next two years. I follow in the footsteps of many outstanding women who have been your National Director. I also know many great things about your state

(living next door) and the outstanding leadership your State Board will provide members for the future.

I would like to begin my first article by introducing myself to you. I grew up on a dairy farm in Southeastern Minnesota with ten around our family table. I went to catholic school then to nursing school. My first job at Mayo clinic, St. Mary's Hospital, was on the surgical neurology floor. It was a fast pace, ever changing, challenging floor which I grew to love. My career at Mayo was extremely satisfying, fulfilling and taught me more about life and death than any book or teacher.

Then I met a cute boy and decided to marry him, the father of our eight children. We choose for me to stay at home to raise our children. A decision that was not made lightly. There were many days it was more difficult than I imagined. But in the end, it was the right thing to do.

I joined Catholic Daughters 38 years ago to have the one night a week out with like minded women who I could also pray with. At first, I didn't think it was a good fit but my judgements were wrong. The ladies welcomed me. I stepped out on a limb and chaired a committee with another CDA sister and the rest is history. To this day, my BEST friends are CDA members of a court.

After the children left the nest, I started a Home Health/ Hospice business. I employ 5 nurses who share our love for the elderly/dying and our love to teach their families about the process. And two of those nurses are also RNs from my court! Bonus, right! It is again one of the most rewarding experiences I have been blessed with.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the SD state convention in Spearfiish.

Peace be with you,

Nancy Bambenek 2nd Vice National Regent



Blessings to all SD CDA members.

I know we just bustled through the Christmas season and I hope everyone was able to spend some time with family and friends. Many of you know me as a Past State Regent or your district deputy, but my new appointed position is National Director.

National Directors are assigned specific states to supervise and to assist them with questions etc. It is wonderful to get to know more of the CDA ladies. I work with courts in North Dakota, Colorado and Ohio.

I am also assigned to the Circle of Love spoke of Family. With this position, I am to share ideas for courts to use to work with our members and families. If you have some fun activities, please email me at barbwcda2024@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you.

A huge shout out to the ladies who attended the celebration in Plankinton for both Brenda Anderson and myself. Also, thank you to the courts who sponsored this event. It was a special day that I will always remember. Thank you to all who emailed, sent cards or offered verbal greetings. CDA is in my heart and you are all in my prayers.

Barb Wiechmann National Director

Past Regents Registration – Thursday, April 10, 2025					
Spearfish, SD – Holiday Inn Convention Center					
Registration required by March 31, 2025 \$35 Send check to Cindy Larson, PR Sec-Treas					
Name					
Address					
					(Make \$35 Ck to SD CDA Past Regents)
Court Name#					
Email					
Dietary Request					
·					
"Be a Beacon of Hope, a Light in the Darkness"					
20 a 20acon ofpe/ a light in the Barkhoos					

Happy New Year! Time to set up your projects for this year. The LifeSavers Abuse Project is such a worthy cause and the money from this fundraiser is used to help those who are suffering from abuse. Whether its somewhere in our state or in your own home town, there are people who need our help. This project is such a simple yet beautiful way to support those in

To find information about your local area, please ask the recipient of your local monies for stats in your area. Another great resource is our state DCI web site: https://sdcrime.nibrs.com. There you can find break downs of cities, counties and types of crimes that affect those around you. Use this to educate your parish and town. If people know that facts, they are more likely to support our cause.

Remember: Before you calculate ½ local money and ½ state money, you can deduct the cost of the Lifesavers used in the project! Find your forms on the state CDA website under Resources, then Forms. Be sure to send both the form and the check to our CDA Secretary, Mary Kay Zimmerman.

I look forward to reading about your projects. If you have any questions or in need of ideas, please email me at ckling@sdplains.com.

Many Blessings for this coming year.

Carol Kling State Abuse Project Chair

need.



State Convention Delegate Forms:

You should have received in the mail from National, the delegate forms for State Convention. Please discuss and elect delegates at your February meeting or before and return the forms to me by March 1st. Remember you must have names submitted or you will not be allowed a vote at convention.

If you have no one going, it should be indicated on the form and returned also. All must be returned. You may send by snail mail or scan the completed form and email it to me at: sdcdaregent@gmail.com

NEWS FLASH!!!!

The SD CDA State Board NEEDS your help! We are looking for 2 (TWO) individuals to fill vacancies on the state board at the State Convention in April. The deadline to submit your letter of interest, photo, along with a document of support from your local court by FEB 1, 2025. (Reference National Bylaws, Article XI, Sec 1. Paragraph A.) If you are unable to get paperwork pulled together by the deadline, PLEASE contact a current state officer for instructions.

We are looking to fill the following positions: State Treasurer and 2nd Vice State Regent. You are not obligated to progress through all the offices on the state board, although we highly recommend this leadership opportunity, we understand the time commitment being a state officer entails. The majority of our meetings are done through ZOOM so there is not a lot of travel involved or expense. Please prayerfully consider becoming a state officer, we are a fun and prayerful bunch of CDA Sisters!!!



This is the 3rd year Court St Ann #1121. Pierre, has had the honor to decorate a Christmas Tree at the State Capitol. The Theme this year was "Christmas in the eyes of a child." In the past 3 years, Carmen Keyes has been the leader to decorate the tree and does a beautiful job. This year the tree was decorated with CDA ornaments in purple and gold and beautiful Nativity of Baby Jesus in the middle of the Tree.







TOGETHER we do great things

Across the State

SD CDA Member Achievement Award

Nominate a member who is in good standing. The nominee should be recognized for following the CDA motto: Unity and Charity.

Nominations should be 300 words or less. Send to JoAnn Hoffman, 2nd Vice Regent by FEB 15, 2025.

Details are on the website at: cdasouthdakota.com.



2025 Gift Basket Raffle

Do you have ideas for your local Court gift basket for the 2025 Basket Raffle? All Courts are asked to put together a basket for the State Convention Basket Raffle. It has become a popular event to allow the members not able to attend to by chances on the baskets by viewing them on the website, so we will be doing this again. Baskets will be posted on the website with pictures and tickets available to print off.

Start early preparing your basket and send a picture to **sdcda1918web@gmail.com** as soon as you have it completed to be placed on the website. What will your basket be this year? Pick a theme for your basket and ask your members to bring one item centered on the theme of the basket.

When you print tickets, **DO NOT CUT TICKETS APART** -- mail money and tickets postmarked by April 4, 2025 to:

Susan Gunn 18649 Summerville Rd Lemmon, SD 57638

It's always fun to have lots of baskets to bid on. Include things in your basket that you would like to take home. Each court will have a basket and if you want to donate one individually – all are welcome. State Officers, District Deputies and State Chairman are asked to provide a basket as well. Which one will you take home? To print tickets, go to the cdasouthdakota.com

website.

Be sure to put the picture number on the ticket so it is included in the correct basket drawing.





Family

Promoting family values begins with intentional actions that strengthen relationships and create a sense of togetherness. Start by prioritizing quality

time with family members, such as shared meals, game nights, or outdoor activities, where everyone can bond and communicate openly. Building traditions, whether weekly rituals like Sunday dinners or seasonal celebrations, helps foster a sense of belonging and continuity. Encourage open and honest communication to create a safe environment for discussing feelings, challenges, and aspirations, ensuring that everyone feels valued and heard.

Lead by example in demonstrating respect, kindness, and generosity, core principles that reflect family values. Engage in acts of service together, like volunteering in the community, to instill empathy and teamwork. Encourage setting shared goals, such as saving for a family vacation or completing a project together, to build unity and collective responsibility. Remember that promoting family values isn't about perfection but about consistently modeling love, support, and understanding, even in small everyday interactions.



Dear Regents- Court of the year Award!

Please submit a letter with the following information about your court activities from March 1,2023 through February 15, 2025.

What Special Projects, Programs or Events has your court engaged in? How many members assisted in each? How does your court enhance spirituality for your members and non-members of your parish and community? How do you gain members and how do you keep your present membership active and alive? What do you do for your youth, for veterans, for seminarians, for young couples, for the elderly, for the homeless, for the least of our brothers, in your parish and community?

Membership numbers will be considered according to the **percentage** of changes to make it fair for all courts. Include the number of members as of 3/1/2023 and number of members as of 2/15/25. Report the number of membership changes between 3/1/23 through 2/15/25 due to:

- Death
- · Forfeited (dues not paid)
- · Resigned
- · Transferred Out to a different CDA Court
- · Transferred In from a different CDA Court
- · Renewal rejoining after lapsed membership

Deadline: Feb.15, 2025 postmark and will be strictly adhered to.

Mail to: JoAnn Hoffman -2nd Vice State Regent PO Box 716 Parkston SD 57366

Judging will be completed by an independent panel and the winner will be selected based on cumulative information, not any single factor. The winning court will be announced at the 2025 State Convention.

Details can be found on **cdasouthdakota.com**.

Happiness springs from doing good and helping others.

Happy Court Anniversaries

Court	City	Anniversary	Years
Margaret Mary #2453	Mitchell	January 11	26
Madonna #1952	Plankinton	January 16	59
St. Patricia #271	Sioux Falls	January 23	109
Holy Heart #163	Woonsocket	February 18	113
St. George #2688	Hartford	February 22	10
Joan of Arc #846	Milbank	February 27	101
St. Ann #1121	Pierre	March 3	96
Imm. Heart of Mary #2654	Lemmon	March 4	13
St. Christina #2336	Lennox	March 25	35
St. Monica #1436	Faulkton	April 20	78

Best Wishes and Blessings to each of you!



Court Sancta Maria, #368 Dell Rapids, South Dakota collected new children's winter hats, mittens, socks, and underwear at their annual Christmas party. These items were donated to The Closet, part of the Foster Network in Sioux Falls, SD. The Closet not only gives clothes to families with foster and adopted children but also books, baby equipment, and toys. Court members are seen in the photo with their donations.

Calling ALL SD Past Regents!!

The Past Regents club will be having elections for new officers. All current officer terms are completed; New Leadership is needed to continue. PLEASE pray, consider and send you name to one of the officers listed below. This is a great way to stay in contact with all the wonderful PR's who have served our Courts so well in the past. Thank you and we hope we see many responses.

Brenda Anderson, PR President cdasdbrenda@gmail.com
Barb Wiechmann, PR Vice Pres. Barbwcda2024@gmail.com
Cindy Larson, PR Sec.Treas. kclarson@santel.net

State Military Project

Please bring Personal Hygiene items to the 2025 State Convention. Items will be donated to both VA Hospitals in Sioux Falls and Hot Springs. I am asking for travel size Items so the packages can be packaged and distributed to the individual Veterans. If you have any questions please contact the State Military Projects Chair, Joy Saffel (email below).

Joy Saffel - mjsaffel2904@gmail.com

I FELL ASLEEP IN CHURCH, THEN I HEARD "STAND UP" SO I STOOD UP AND PEOPLE CLAPPED, THEN THE PASTOR SAID WHO ELSE WILL GIVE \$2000

State Convention Program Book Advertising

Advertising in the state convention book is a meaningful way to connect with a faith-centered audience that values community and shared values. It allows your message to reach attendees who are likely to support businesses and services aligned with their beliefs. Additionally, It demonstrates your support for the CDA mission of Unity and Charity, strengthening your reputation as a trusted and faith-friendly organization.

Advertising Contract Price List

Full Page	100.00
Half Page	50.00
1/4 Page	25.00
1/8 Page	15.00

Email ad to sdcdavice1@gmail.com in a .pdf format by Feb 15th

Make checks payable to SD Catholic Daughters of the Americas and send to: Michele Sage, CDA Program Ads, 125 Giley Ave, Brookings, SD 57006

Bring to Convention:

*Door Prize - \$10 value

*Basket for auction - Each local court is asked to bring one; DD's and State Chr if they wish

- Have made ahead and send a picture to: sdcda1918web@gmail.com

*Court Banner

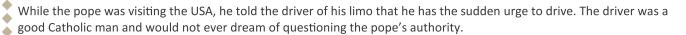
**Your formal attire for Saturday night banquet

*Your outfit for "Enjoying God's Creations" of the hills for Friday night celebration

*Your positive and joyful attitude for this 53rd State Convention

*District Deputies and State Chr. -your storyboard with activities of your courts

*Regents for Memorial Mass & ALL officers for the Installation Mass—Your white dress blouse (no sleeveless, tanks, crop, tshirts), black slacks (no capris, exercise, leggings, jeans) or a skirt (to knee or longer), black shoes (no flip flops or boots)



So the pope sat at the wheel, while his driver got in the back. They were traveling down the road doing between 80 and 90 mph, when a policeman happened to see them.

As he pulled them over, he called in to headquarters reporting a speeding limo, with a VIP inside.

The chief asked: "Who is in the limo, the mayor?"

The policeman told him: "No, someone more important than the mayor."

Then the chief asked "Is it the governor?"

The policeman answered: "No, someone more important than the governor."

The chief finally asked: "Is it the President?"

The policeman answered: "No, someone even more important than the President."

This made the chief very angry and he bellowed: "Now who is more important than the President?!"

The policeman calmly whispered: "I'll put it to you this way chief. I don't know who is this guy, but he has the pope as his chauffeur."



EDUCATION CONTEST - the new themes for the 2024-2025 year are:

He who forgives an offence, seeks love. Prov 17:9

OR How do I feel when I forgive?

The forms and instructions are on the <u>cdasouthdakota.com</u> and under 'resources ->forms -> Education Contest with the <u>correct name</u> to send the entries to is on the forms. Make sure you send the entries to the proper Chairman by March 1st or they may not be forwarded to the correct place in time to be judged.



Mail Local 1st place Education Contest winners - **by March 1st** to: Susan Urban, 38426 255th St., Plankinton, SD 57368





















PRINT CLEARLY

Regent

53rd Biennial CDA Convention Registration and Meal Ticket Form April 10th-13th, 2025

Holiday Inn - Spearfish SD

ALL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY March 1st, 2025

Mail form and check to Deb DeFries, registration chairman- 1024 Lake Alice Dr Clear Lake SD 57226 Email or mail a copy to JoAnn Hoffman PO Box 716 Parkston, SD 57366 sdcdavice2@gmail.com Make your court checks to: SD Catholic Daughters

	ne:		
Cou	rt Name & Number:		
Add	ress:	Phone:	
Ema	nil Address		
Check	all that apply: Day		
		Guest Meal Reservation #	
П	the design of the contract of	Friday Lunch \$20.00	
	Past STATE Regent	Friday Evening \$35.00	
П	1st Time Attendee	Saturday Luncheon \$25.00	
	Delegate	Saturday Banquet \$45.00	
	Alternate		
	Non-voting Member	 One Day Registration \$25.00 plus meals 	
	Current Court Regent	select from the above listing.	
	Past Court Regent		
		on Fee: \$165.00 by March 1, 2025 — March 15: \$190	
ou are Regent l Guest N Court(s) Note: Friday o	unable to attend with Local Court approval. Rebefore the end of the Convention - extreme reals: Those eligible for guest meals are spouse member only. Courts may pay for their chaplaid CDA Members not attending convention but her Saturday individually.	Registration may be transferred to another member if a fund requests MUST be submitted in writing to the State asons only. Refund to be determined by State Board. Ite, non-CDA member, Clergy/Spiritual Director or host in to attend the convention or a meal. In the leping with setup may only purchase meals for the deform is needed and fees sent as indicated on the form.	
pecial	Dietary Needs:		
AUTHOI	RIZATION FROM LOCAL COURT		
-		is a member in good standing in our Court. (dues paid)	

Financial Secretary