



MAY 2026 | VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

MICHELE'S CDA MUSINGS

South Dakota Catholic Daughters of the Americas

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil. 4:13

MICHELE'S MESSAGE

I have received several phone calls, emails, and text messages over the last couple of weeks concerning the inability of the local courts to find ladies to fill local court leadership roles. This is very disheartening.

Many of you may or may not know that I get a lot of my inspiration for projects, plan of actions, and other things along this line by spending time behind the lawn mower or walking my dog, Darby. I currently am having trouble coming up with a solution to a problem we are facing in South Dakota Catholic Daughters. The problem is leadership apathy. My yard is just not big enough, the grass is not growing fast enough, and Darby can't walk 10 miles a day to help me solve this problem.

This problem of leadership apathy is not just the failure to engage or communicate with the membership it's also the feeling of not being supported by those above them. The State Board may have played a part in this failure, but it was unintentional. When leaders fail to articulate a clear mission or execute consistently, members lose connection to the organization's purpose, resulting in disengagement.

The reasons given for not wanting to step up to be a leader on the local level are as varied as the members: "I've done that job before, let someone else do it", "I'm too old and don't get around as well as I used to", "I don't like driving at night", "I don't have the time", "I don't know what to do in that position" and the list goes on. We've all heard them. But how do we change these attitudes?

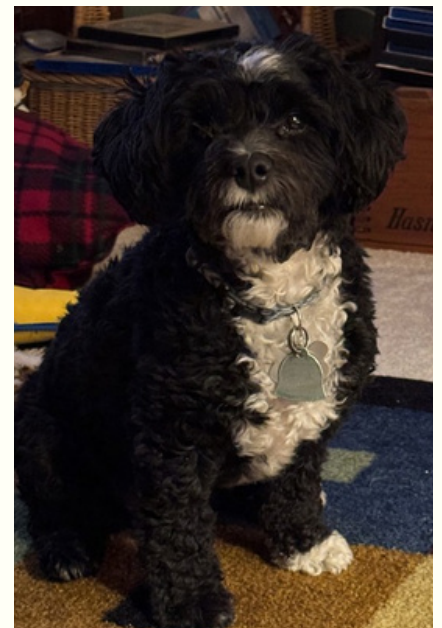
Many people avoid leadership due to stress, fear of responsibility, and a personal preference for lower visibility. Leadership comes with significant responsibilities. Leaders are frequently under scrutiny from peers, and those above them. This exposure can often be uncomfortable and can create stress and anxiety, making leadership less appealing.

Some individuals simply do not desire leadership, valuing personal freedom, work-life balance, or a focus on their own tasks over managing others. Reluctant leaders may also avoid leadership if the perceived rewards do not outweigh the personal and professional risks.

Even capable leaders can become discouraged if progress is slow, direction is unclear, or challenges accumulate. This discouragement can lead to disengagement or stepping back from leadership responsibilities. Maintaining motivation and resilience is essential, and some may choose to avoid leadership to prevent prolonged stress or burnout. (cont. next page)

PRAYERS

- For all members and their families suffering from illnesses
- For all members and their families suffering from the loss of a loved one
- For all members, past, present and future
- For continued growth in membership
- For our Bishops, Priests, Deacons and Religious to guide us closer to the Lord.
- For Vocations
- For favorable weather for farmers and ranchers
- For safety from summer storms.
- For safety while traveling this summer.



MICHELE'S MESSAGE CONT.

Overcoming leadership apathy is about restoring trust, clarifying purpose, empowering people and addressing the underlying causes of disengagement. It's not about forceful motivation, but about creating conditions where people feel valued, heard, and capable of contributing meaningfully.

As a spoke in our Circle of Love, Leadership is a skill that can be learned. We as members of Catholic Daughters are asked to set goals of preparing women to assume positions of leadership in their courts, states, dioceses, and local communities. We must provide the necessary information and tools to assist you to be successful leaders. It is the goal of the current State Board to give you the tools necessary to be successful leaders. To that point, we have scheduled the leadership workshop/training for August 1, 2026, in Plankinton at the Silo Market. See attached flyer. So, I humbly ask the membership of Catholic Daughters to prayerfully consider stepping up to be a leader in your court. You will not be left stranded.

CDA COURT HAPPENINGS

60th Anniversary - St. Thomas Aquinas #1949

Members of Ct. St. Thomas Aquinas gather to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of their court. They welcomed State Officers, Michele Sage, Jan Evans, Mary Kay Zimmerman, St Chaplain Dcn Phil Carlson; District Deputy Carolyn Downs and Past State Regents Brenda Anderson, Barb Wiechmann and Judy Konechne to their celebration.



COURT INSTALLATIONS

Please remember to contact your District Deputy or State Representative to come and celebrate your new officer installations. We would love to join you in either an Installation at Mass or at your Court Meeting. Remember also to send in to the National office and to the State the list of new officers with all the contact information. I hopw to see many of you in June!

CDA Membership Prayer

Remember us, O Dearest Mary,

Our Mother and Patroness of
Catholic Daughters. We offer you
our works, joys and trials.

We ask your intercession as we reach out
to women with love and enthusiastic
invitations to increase our membership.

Helps us, O Most Holy Virgin,
to be faithful to your rosary,
for peace in our homes, our nation
and the world.

We ask you to bless and protect our
families and guide the unity and charity
we do for our Circle of Love.

We ask this through your name. Amen.

Court Anniversaries

Happy Anniversary to the following Courts!

APRIL

4/7 Sancta Maria #368, Dell Rapids, 107 yrs

4/20 St. Monica #1436, Faulkton, 79 yrs

MAY

5/2 St. Kateri Tekakwitha # 2635, Faith, 16 yrs

5/10 Our Lady of Lourdes #2056, Hot Springs, 54 yrs

5/15 Little Flower #1054, Highmore, 99 yrs

5/16 St. Thomas #1533, Humboldt, 76 yrs

5/17 Willard #967, Yankton, 101 yrs

5/22 St. Agnes #618, Brookings 105 yrs

5/31 South Dakota State Court, 108 yrs

JUNE

6/5 St. Patrick #1699, Kimball, 71 yrs

6/6 Mary Imelda #1014, Winner, 100 yrs

6/11 Sacred Heart #280, Parkston, 110 yrs

6/12 St. Katharine Drexel # 2516, Roscoe, 23 yrs

Best Wishes & Blessings to each for continued success!

**NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE
STATE NEWSLETTER IS
AUGUST 26, 2026**

NEWSLETTER email:

sdcda1918news@gmail.com

Laree Giovannettone - editor

SD WEBSITE email:

sdcda1918web@gmail.com

{Looking for someone}, editor

State Website:

www.cdaskouthdakota.com

National Website:

www.catholicdaughters.org

Clip this out and put by your computer or on your fridge

REMINDER

If you have pictures or articles you would like in the next State Newsletter, please send to the Editor -Laree Giovannettone at sdcda1918news@gmail.com

You are able to send pictures of activities and or articles to the email address above anytime but by August 26, 2026 DEADLINE to be in the next State newsletter. THANK YOU!!

SD CDA GROCERIES FOR A YEAR – SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

Every two years South Dakota CDA holds the Grocery Raffle. This is \$100 of groceries every month for one year and a drawing for three (3) \$100 cash prizes. Tickets are \$1 each or 12 for \$10. Anyone anywhere can win this prize. If your name is chosen, we'll contact you for the name of your grocery store and SD CDA sets it all up. Tickets are easy to sell and this is a fundraiser that anyone enjoys winning since we all need to buy groceries.

Please help support this state fundraiser and sell as many as possible; before and after Mass, at pastorate meals and other events; maybe in the local grocery store as well as to your friends, neighbors and family living elsewhere. Make as many copies of the ticket sheet as you can and then send your sheets of tickets and payment to the State Fundraising Co-Chair: Jackie Lofswold P.O. Box 224, Humboldt, SD 57035. Make checks payable to: South Dakota CDA. All tickets by mail must be postmarked by April 1, 2027. You may also bring your tickets to the Convention and additional tickets will be available for purchase there. Winners are announced at the 2027 State CDA Convention. Share the good news about CDA and this opportunity to have groceries for a year.

Jackie Lofswold, State Fundraising Co-Chair
Elsie Baye, State Fundraising Co-Chair

2027 GROCERY RAFFLE

Do NOT cut apart, we will do that for you!

Return tickets and money to:

Jackie Lofswold

PO Box 224

Humboldt SD 57035

Prices: \$1 each or 12 (2 sheets) for \$10

Make copies for your Family and Friends

SD CDA Grocery Raffle

State Raffle—Groceries for a year- \$100 per month and Three (3) \$100 cash prizes

\$1.00 each or 12 / \$10.00

Name:

Drawing—April 17, 2027

Address:

CDA State Convention in Mitchell SD

Phone Number:

SD CDA Grocery Raffle

State Raffle—Groceries for a year- \$100 per month and Three (3) \$100 cash prizes

\$1.00 each or 12 / \$10.00

Name:

Drawing—April 17, 2027

Address:

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SD CDA Officer Training Aug. 1, 2026

All Court Officers

Full Name:Office

CDA Court Name:#

The Silo Market
120 N Main Street = Plankinton, SD

Training – No Cost

Lunch - Fajita Bar - Free Will

Registration deadline: July 26, 2026

to JoAnn Hoffmantext 605-770-7928 or email SDCDA1Vice@gmail.com

Registration: 9:30am Registration

Training Starts = PROMPTLY at 10am

Tentative schedule:12 Noon = Lunch

Morning *Afternoon**

- Introductions| National Officer Speak
- Prayer| Officers duties
- Spiritual Talk| Skit (stretch – snack)
- By-Laws| Discussion Groups by Office Held
- Break in Officer groups | Questions & Comments| Closing Prayer