



Spirit of North Dakota

State Regent—Kathy Kennedy

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Mt: 18:20 (NASB)

As Catholic Christian women, do we accept the words of Jesus and believe Him? I do. I hope CDA members across the state do so as well. On the checklist that went out with the Call to Convention, the last item I listed to bring was a positive attitude. Three days after I sent it out, I heard people were complaining that the Masses at convention were going to be held in the hotel instead of in a church, even though I had explained the reasoning behind this decision. Driving in Fargo traffic for people not used to it and parking spaces were only two of the issues addressed. The CDA State Board and the Convention Committee



are staying with this decision even though we know it doesn't please everyone. Bishop John T. Folda, who will be celebrating the Friday noon Mass, our State Chaplain, Fr. Franklin Miller, and other priests attending the convention do not have a problem with Mass in the hotel. So really, why should we? Remember...*“Where two or three are gathered...”*

I have also been asked about the prices of the meals at convention. Recently I went to a restaurant and ordered a chef salad. It was listed at \$14.00. By

the time I added money for a tip and the taxes, my salad was \$17.99. I only had water to drink. If I had added coffee or tea, my bill would have been over \$20. Please remember that gratuity, taxes and beverages are included in the price of your meals at convention. Partaking of meals at the convention is optional, but if you choose to eat somewhere else, you are missing speakers, entertainment and camaraderie. Isn't that worth something?

It has also been brought to my attention that people believe the Ramada is the “most expensive hotel in Fargo” and should not have been chosen as the site for our convention. Please know that the Convention Committee called around and researched the costs of several places. The Ramada was found to be the most reasonable and

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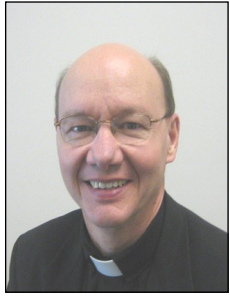
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The Lord is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.

Psalm 28:7

State Chaplain—Fr. Franklin Miller



Dear Catholic Daughters,

The season of Lent is special time for an enthusiastic interior renewal of our lives in preparation for a jubilant celebration of Easter and a greater relationship with the Holy Spirit. As Lent began on Ash Wednesday with the blessing and imposition of ashes, we begin a renewed quest for newness of life and a greater oneness with God. The imposition of ashes is a reminder of the end of our lives, but it is also a beginning of an accomplished desire of change in heart and mind, “repent and believe in the Gospel.” Our blessed Lord said, “those who lose their life for my sake will find it” (Mt. 16:25b). “... The human being has a deep-rooted tendency to “think only of self,” to regard one’s own person as the center of

interest and to see oneself as the standard against which to gauge everything. One who chooses to follow Christ, on the other hand, avoids being wrapped up in himself and does not evaluate things according to self-interest. He looks on life in terms of gift and gratuitousness, not in terms of conquest and possession. Life in its fullness is only lived in self-giving, and that is the fruit of the grace of Christ: an existence that is free and in communion with God and neighbor” (St. John Paul II, Message of the Holy Father to the Youth of the World on the Occasion of the XVI World Youth Day, 4).

Praying for change, which is the work and the fruit of the Holy Spirit, “also the Consoler who gives the human heart grace for repentance and conversion (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1433). The practices of Lent help us overcome those obstacles in our life that keeps us

from experiencing the fullness of life; for our Blessed Lord said he came that we “may have life, and have it abundantly” (Jn 10:10b). The practices of self-denial and mortification during Lent facilitate the strengthening of our spirit. A strong strength of soul is necessary in mastering self-control and having the ability to resist inordinate desires and thoughts, “blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God” (Mt 5:8). The practices of Lent helps us to break off the ties of disordered attachment to ourselves, to people and things, which often keep us from seeking “first the kingdom of God” (Mt. 6:33).

Of course, Lent always includes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which is necessary for the accomplishment of the “new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness” (Eph. 4:24). “The whole power of the sacrament of Penance consists in restoring us to God’s grace and joining us with him in an intimate friendship.’ Reconciliation with God is thus the purpose and effect of this sacrament. For those who receive the sacrament of Penance with contrite heart and religious disposition, reconciliation ‘is usually followed by peace and serenity of conscience with strong spiritual consolation.’ Indeed the sacrament of Reconciliation with God brings about a true ‘spiritual resurrection,’ restoration of the dignity and blessings of the life of the children of God, of which the most precious is friendship with God” (CCC, 1468).



National Supervisor—Vickie Feist

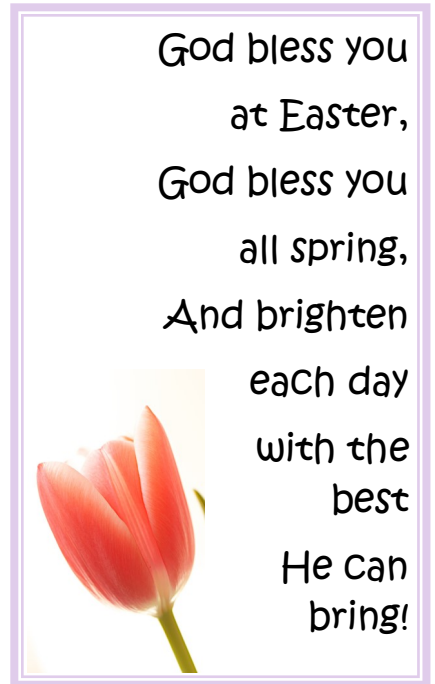


Greetings dear North Dakota Catholic Daughters! Easter Season blessings to all. Such a wonderful time of year we are in.... the landscape is beginning to green with new life, we have entered into the glorious Easter season, and almost time for the great North Dakota State Catholic Daughters Convention.

I hope lots of you have made your reservations, sent in your registration, and are getting ready to spend a fantastic weekend in

Fargo with your CDA sisters! I know that your state board and the ladies of Fargo have been working so hard to make this a memorable weekend for all.

I extend a special invitation to all members who have not ever attended a state convention. It is such a special experience - my first convention helped me to see the bigger Catholic Daughters organization, helped me to feel the sisterhood across the state, and helped me to feel a greater excitement for the many ways that we can let God use our hands and hearts to care for his beloved people. Hope to see many of you in Fargo!



First Vice State Regent —Laurel Ann Dukart



ND State CDA Website

The North Dakota State CDA Website was launched on Dec. 26, 2014. If you haven't had a chance to look at the site, please do so. Access the site by using either of these links:

www.northdakotacatholicdaughters.com or www.ndcdofa.com

The site is password-protected and authorization is needed to publish anyone's picture/name. (Regents and chairpersons were sent copies of the authorization form). Emails of officers and chairpersons are included—but no addresses or phone numbers.

The site is a work in progress. I have included a few things, some from the National CDA website, but would like your input. Regents / chairpersons / members, please forward any information, pictures, clipart, etc. you'd like added about your courts (let me know if you have a court website or link), area of your State chairpersonship, events for the event or calendar pages.

You may notice the site has very few pictures. I am looking for pictures of the National CDA Convention in Billings. If any of you attended the convention and have photos you'd like to share please forward them to me at the email listed below. When sending photos, please make sure everyone in a picture has signed an authorization form.

Please contact me at dukartcda@outlook.com with comments, input, photos, suggestions, trouble accessing the site, etc. Be kind—it's my first attempt at a website.

Have a wonderful Easter Season!

Laurel Ann a.k.a 'webmaster'

Second Vice State Regent—Mary Baer



Time is running out to get your CDA calendar raffle entry in. Entry forms can be found in this edition of Spirit of North Dakota or the winter edition. The first drawing will be held on Thursday, April 2nd. Entries will be accepted all through April but you will have more chances to win if you send your entry in by April 2nd. I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all of you who have already sent in your entry, your generosity is greatly appreciated. Feel free to enter again or give

the entry form to someone else to send in. Copies of the entry form may also be made.

The operating expenses and the donations made by the State Court are funded with this fundraiser and with the auction at the State Convention. Remember that all donations are given in the name of “North Dakota Catholic Daughters” which includes you as the giver and the donations are possible because of your generosity.

Let’s see if we can make this the most successful fundraiser yet! I will give you an update at the State Convention, hope to see you there!

Editor’s Corner—Colleen & Mary

Putting together this edition of the newsletter has me feeling happy but also sad that I will not be able to attend the 49th Biennial State Convention in Fargo. In the last 20 years, I’ve only missed a couple of conventions and I have always looked forward to attending. The business meetings, the spirit filled Masses, the speakers, entertainment, great tasting food and the friendship with my fellow C.D.A. sisters is always such a delight. Although I will not be in attendance this year, my thoughts and prayers for each and everyone of you on that weekend and always will be for safe travels, listening ears, open minds and joyful hearts to share with others.

With tax deadline just around the corner, this just happens to be the busiest time of year for me and I’ve been pondering how I was going to be able to accomplish the task of producing the newsletter while already working 14 plus hours a day.

After receiving a text from our State Regent Kathy, I knew I couldn’t delay it

another day. I put my tax returns aside and asked God to give me the guidance, time and energy to fill the newsletter so our members can read and be informed. It worked and I was rewarded as well! I felt so much joy while working on this paper. I was able to see how the leadership with the state board is growing and producing new ways to reach out to each and everyone of you across the state by having access to important information and filling our minds with their informative and spirit filled articles. They are keeping us connected four times a year through the “*Spirit of ND*” and now by adding the new website. Laurel Ann, a.k.a. webmaster, did an outstanding job in creating the web and expanding the communication lines for Catholic Daughters state-wide.

This is your time to read about the great state project proposals on pgs. 6-7 and discuss with your courts.

Have a heart-warming and informative convention!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Kim Bickler
Sheila Ponzio
Lorna Gross
Sheila Doll
Gerri Fleckenstein
Aldean Paul
Joyce Fleck
Bernadette Holzer
Mary Hatzenbihler
Lucy Hanninen
Diane Idalski
Casey Hoff
Gloria Knudsen
Melissa Peters
Rose Kostecki
Lois Bachmeier
Annette Savalosa
Julie Carew
Rita Huschka
Denise Brauquinho

State Secretary—Bonita Erickson



What produces light? A candle? A flashlight? A light bulb? The stars? What is the greatest source of light for us? No, it isn't the Sun. It is Jesus Christ. He said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. Today even though He isn't with us on Earth, we can still be guided by His Light. His light is one of love and staying in its path will keep us safe. Each of us has the Light of Christ. Obviously, when a pathway is lit, traveling becomes much easier. Dangers are exposed. The same is true in our faith walk. Staying close to the light of Christ helps a person walk in the path of discipleship and to follow the teaching of Jesus. The goal is to live in the light of Christ. God guides us by

the light to work together to be a light in this world of darkness. It is an opportunity--- a calling from God to go out and do something great for God- to do something great with God and with each other for the salvation of the whole world. Our own lamps must be lit with the unmistakable glow of the holiness of Jesus Christ. That's the light that leads the way. When people meet us, they have to be meeting Christ in all of his love, in all of his goodness, in all of his holiness. They must be seeing the Holy One of God in us. We cannot waste time hiding the light under a table, putting it under a bushel basket. We must let that light shine. If we want the world to see, we have to bring our light together and become a people of the light shining with the wonder and beauty of Jesus Christ. We have to be lamps burning with the light of Christ.

Lord, help us to walk by the guided light of Christ.

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.

In Loving Remembrance

Mary Ann Bachmeier

Betty Wegleitner

Margaret Sibley

Rose Cermack

Margaret Wetsch

Genevieve Eckroth

Jeannine Cote

Rita Bercier

Clara Ebach

Mary Kraft



49th Biennial State Convention News

Editor's note: *The following four state project proposals will be voted upon at the 49th Biennial State Convention in Fargo. Read and discuss with your courts prior to convention.*



Badlands Choice Clinic

Court St. Catherine #323 would like to propose the Badlands Choice Clinic as our new State project.

They are a non-profit organization. With the population influx in Dickinson and southwest North Dakota there is an increase of unplanned pregnancies and crisis situations. There is a shortage of Foster Care in our community. If families are reached early in an unplanned pregnancy situation, the percentage of families keeping their babies rapidly increases and decreases the need of foster care. More than one million abortions are performed in the U.S. EACH YEAR. Based on current abortion rates, about one in three women will have an abortion by the age of 45. Forty-Four percent of women who had abortions in the U.S. had at least one previous abortion. Eight-two percent of the women who had abortions in the U.S. were unmarried. Fifty percent of the U.S. women having abortions are younger than 25 years old.

The goal of the clinic is to empower women and families to make life-affirming pregnancy decisions through counsel, education, compassion and the aid through the gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Clinic will be located at 313 3rd St. West Dickinson, ND. The rental cost for this space is free. Funding has been secured for the necessary plumbing & lighting repairs, flooring, windows & air conditioning unit, hand rails, door locks and alarms, safety lighting and exit signs. Funding is also available for biohazard containers and trash cans, Doppler, stethoscopes and membership to Heart

Beat International. Proposed services offered will be pregnancy testing, community referral/networking, peer counseling, ultrasound service, abortion recovery support, parenting classes, breast feeding classes and support incentive programs. Monetary contributions are needed to support these ongoing programs and hire a Medical Director.

In the words of Jesus Christ "WHAT YOU DO FOR THE LEAST OF MY BRETHERN YOU DO UNTO ME," We would be proud to have the support of the CDA of North Dakota with a contribution at a sponsorship level. There are three levels of Sponsorship *HOPE, *LOVE and the * HEARTBEAT. Sponsorship Levels with the names placed upon a plaque to be hung at the Clinic.

First Choice Clinic

Court St. Veronica #1421 of Mott proposes First Choice Clinic of Fargo and her satellite clinics in Bismarck and Devils Lake as our next state project.

Originally founded as AAA Pregnancy Center in 1984, First Choice Clinic began as a lay counseling agency to help women facing unplanned pregnancy and to provide practical support to women in need. In 1997, recognizing a need to change in order to better reach women vulnerable to abortion, the agency upgraded to a medical clinic.

Today, First Choice Clinic offers pregnancy testing and options counseling by registered nurses, ultrasound exams, prenatal and parenting classes, adoption support, fatherhood education programs, post abortive support and referrals, fertility care education (NFP), STD Testing and Treatment, and positive youth development resources to encourage young people to make sound choices regarding their sexual health. In 2014 alone, First Choice served 2,227 clients who sought the clinics services from every corner of the state. Those facing an unintended pregnancy often feel scared and alone. The mission of First Choice is to surround young women and their partners with practical care and compassionate support so that they can be empowered to choose a life-option for their children. In reaching out with care

and compassion, women find that they have real options beyond what they can see through their fear.

With so much changing in our state, the need for First Choice services has never been greater. The Bismarck clinic draws clients from all over western North Dakota, many of whom have moved here only recently. Many are miles away from the support of family and friends, and feel especially vulnerable. Still others are involved with human trafficking. Both Bismarck and Devil's Lake serve many Native American families, and the main site in Fargo continues to reach college students, young professionals, and a growing immigrant population as well. The need for the work of First Choice is profound, not only to save women and children from experiencing the loss of life and emotional pain that comes with abortion, but to uphold the privileged place of the family — the place where God intended us to first encounter His love in the first place.

First Choice Clinic is non-profit and faith-based. It is not specifically Catholic, but all the Clinic's practices are in line with Church teaching. Given their Christ-centered mission, and carefully discerning the changing needs of our state in this time of intense growth and change, we believe that First Choice Clinic is a worthy recipient of the support of the Catholic Daughters of North Dakota. Thank you for your consideration.

Trinity Youth Camp

Court Cardinal Muench #1852 places Trinity Youth Camp into consideration for the next ND CDA State Project.

The mission of Trinity Youth Camp is to bring children of the Catholic faith together to enkindle within them the fire and love of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in a natural camp environment, where they are accepted as they are, formed in our faith, and encouraged to further unfold the mystery of God.

In 1977, Dorothy Gustafson and Annette Mears answered God's call to organize a Catholic camp for local youth in the parishes of Rolla, Rolette, and Bisbee. Their children had been invited to attend a bible

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camp, which, although well run and faith filled, was not Catholic. With the support of their parish priests and others, they were able to develop a balanced program to provide children with a truly Catholic camp experience by including access to the sacraments.

The size of camp has grown from one camp session of thirty-six children at Pilgrim Park on Lake Metigoshe in 1978 to four sessions totaling nearly four hundred campers at three different sites in 2012. Campers come mainly from throughout North Dakota but have also included children from other states and even Canada. Also, vacation bible school programs are being developed in parishes throughout the state.

While the primary intention of camp was to affect children in grades four through eight, there have been additional benefits. Counselors and directors, most of whom have been former campers, have experienced great spiritual growth. Ecumenical bonds have been established with other denominations which lease their facilities for our purposes. Our balanced program includes physical activities such as recreation, crafts, water activities, and a sundries session. Spiritual activities include daily Mass said by the camp's resident priest, reconciliation, Good News sessions which are centered around a camp theme each year, and other prayer opportunities. Music is an essential part of all activities, especially during the nightly campfires.

Our long term vision centers around establishing a permanent year-round facility on a lake in which Trinity Youth Camp becomes known for Catholic faith development through its summer camps for various grade levels, family camps, and religious retreats.

Camp has continued to develop and expand through the leadership of God, its board of directors, and many dedicated people. Recognition, prayer support, and financial support from many sources are essential for this continued growth. Thank you for this opportunity to present our vision

J.M.I. Summer Camp

Court St. Mary's #268 Devils Lake pre-

sents Third Order Franciscans of Mary Immaculate's Summer Camp for Boys and Girls, ages 10-17.

•Be inspired! Learn the faith, love the faith, live the faith! Be informed and receive the gift of total consecration to Jesus through Mary as a means to evangelization (St. Maximilian Kolbe)! Explore the Scriptures! We are created for a great dignity, a lofty experience of otherworldliness! Youth learn how to pray... and enjoy great summer fun, including swimming, games, sports, outings, and campfires.

•Daily events include: Mass, Holy Hour with Exposition & Adoration, Rosary, Benediction, nightly Marian Procession; and once, Eucharistic Procession; and to be able to serve the Mass.

When: Boys JMI 2015 Summer Camp: June 5th-12th, 2015 Girls JMI 2015 Summer Camp: June 12th-18th, 2015 **Where:** St. Francis Friary, Warsaw, ND, St. Stanislaus Church.

Areas of Instruction: Morals, Catechesis, Mass & Sacraments, and Scriptures.



Dear North Dakota Catholic Daughters,

The members of Court St. Ann are excited to welcome all of you to Fargo for the 49th Biennial State Convention!

Our court, along with the help of the courts in the surrounding areas and the state officers, have been working hard to plan a wonderful weekend for all of you. It is our hope that you find the liturgies inspiring, the speakers enriching, and the business meeting fruitful. Additional, our court gets the joy of celebrating 100th anniversary with our friends locally and from across the state.

We look forward to gathering this spring, in unity and charity.

Casinda Langseth, Regent

Court St. Ann #261

Spirit of North Dakota

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Current Resident Or



State Regent cont. from pg. 1

that is why it was chosen. They have been very pleasurable and accommodating to work with on matters, too. In my opinion, it would be best if our convention could be held in a church and parish social center with CDA members or church circles preparing the meals. This would keep the costs down and be more in line with Pope Francis' vision for Christians not living opulently. Ideal as this is, realistically, it just doesn't always happen that a church can have its facilities tied up three days straight denying the carrying out of parish functions or even have the ade-

quate facilities to accommodate a State Convention. My intent in addressing these matters is not to offend anyone. I just wanted to qualify some issues that have been brought to my attention and try to answer the "whys" openly and honestly. I am glad that I was made aware of these items so I could meet them head on.

Hopefully, with some of this out of the way, we can continue our journey to the 49th Biennial CDA State Convention with a positive attitude

where we will truly feel Christ's presence in our midst. May the light of Christ guide you in your actions, trials, blessings, attitudes, preparations and travels!

49th Biennial
ND State CDA
Convention
April 24-26
Fargo, ND

Next deadline for "The Voice of CDA"
June 1, 2015 codewipf@gondtc.com