



Spirit of North Dakota

State Regent—Laurel Ann Dukart

Hoping everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. I am often most thankful for the things God did not give me. He knows exactly what I can handle at any time - that what I need is not necessarily what I want or should have.

Truly blessed! That is how I feel. I have many and much to be thankful for:

Kathy Kennedy, Immediate Past State Regent – for being my mentor the past four years and continuing to be there when I have questions. ND CDA definitely benefited from her leadership. She is a great advocate for CDA, a special friend.

The wonderful 50th Biennial ND State CDA Convention in May. The members of Ct. Immaculate Conception #322, the State Board and others who helped make it a success. Well done!

The State Boards [past and current]: Kathy Kennedy, Sarah Torpen, Fr. Frank Miller, Mary Baer, Bonita Erickson, Sue Judd, Deb Johnson, that work so well together.

The 2017-2019 State Chairmen for accepting, I look forward to working with them.



Ct. Marquette #677, my local court for their continued support.

Great National CDA leadership, especially Vickie Feist, 2nd Vice National Regent/ND National Supervisor – they readily share their knowledge and help guide us.

The Fall Workshop and State Court's 100th Anniversary Celebration was enjoyed by those who attended. We were blessed to have talks from three Past State Regents: Virginia Koble, Renae Sticka and Kathy Kennedy, as well as Past State Chaplains: Fr. Michael Schommer and Fr. Frank Miller (current Chaplain). The ladies of Ct. Sacred Heart #1908, Harvey were definitely the 'hostesses with the most-esses'.

Mom and my siblings – for their love, support and assistance whenever I need it.

CDA – an important part of life.

I look forward to serve as your Regent. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/concerns. If I don't have an answer, I will find someone who does. I continue to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Please continue to pray for the intercessions of the Blessed Mother, patron for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

This Advent, as we ready ourselves for the celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ, remember that He said whatever we do to others we do to Him. May we all see Christ in each other, treat each other with dignity / respect – as we would like to be treated.

Merry Christmas!

*In Unity and Charity,
Thank you!*

*God Bless,
Laurel Ann*

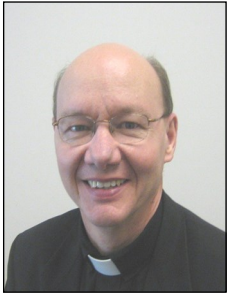


Inside this issue:

Chaplain's message / Editor's note	2
Second Vice National Regent's message	3
First Vice State Regent's message	3
Second Vice State Regent's message	4
State Secretary's message	4, 8
Court Highlights	5
50th Biennial ND State Convention	6
State Workshop, 100th ND State Anniversary	7



State Chaplain—Fr. Franklin Miller



Dear Catholic Daughters,

It is a great privilege and honor to serve you as State Chaplain. I have great esteem and profound admiration for so many Catholic Daughters who have

given and continue to give so much of themselves in service to the Church, the CDA and their local parishes.

I consider it a great blessing to have worked with Kathy Kennedy, past State Regent and all the members of the State Board. And now, I am looking forward to working with the state Regent, Laurel Ann Dukart and members of the State Board in their ongoing effort to make the Catholic Daughters in North Dakota an outstanding example of "Unity and Charity." "Unity and charity" is realized through the dedication and service of every Catholic Daughter, as each court strives "to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow or sickness" (*website front page, CDA*). Pope Francis has said; "And so, we are not called to serve merely in order to receive a reward, but rather to imitate God, who made himself a servant for our love. Nor are we called to serve only now and again, but to live in serving. Service is thus a way of life; indeed it recapitulates the entire Christian way of life: serving God in adoration and prayer; being open and available; loving our neighbor with practical deeds; passionately working for the common good" (10/2/16, Homily).

The month of November is noted for the remembrance of the faithful departed; the souls in purification, those in purgatory. Let us not forget the deceased members of the Catholic Daughters. St. Pope John Paul II encouraged us to be mindful of the souls in purgatory, "We feel bound by charity to offer those brothers and sisters who have experienced the fragility proper to human existence the help of our vigilant prayer. May whatever residue of human weakness still remaining in them to delay their happy encounter with God be definitively wiped

out" (John Paul II, Address, 2 November 1982). "The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire (Cf. 1 Cor 3:15; 1 Pt 1:7) (CCC 1031)."

May you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day!

Fr. Franklin Miller

"The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility,



New Members:

- ⇒ **Ct. St. Ann #261 Fargo**
Lupita Hager
- ⇒ **Ct. Immaculate Conception #322 Bismarck**
Valerie Blazek
Mary Roehrich
Alice Seifert
- ⇒ **Ct. Sts. Anne & Joachim #2638 Fargo**
Cathy Adams
Rachel DeWald
Sister Clarice Carroll
Mary Ann Zwinger
Kathy Hett
Julie Bubach
Rebekah Brossart



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Rev. Franklin Miller
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Second Vice National Regent—Vickie Feist



Every year I enter in to Advent and Christmas, like all of you I am sure, with a heart searching to bring a deeper spirituality into my heart.

This year, my thoughts have taken me not to thoughts about the way Christmas becomes ever more about retail sales and materialistic greed but to the heart greed.

I am not focusing about the greediness that starts (and is even encouraged, isn't it?) when we are children and tasked with making a list of the things we want to receive. No, I am focusing on the materialism in my heart when I focus on getting just

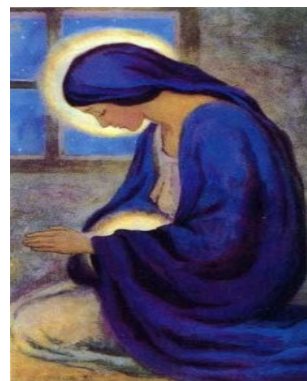
“the right gift” to delight my husband, children, grandchildren, and friends. I really do play into that same greediness because my heart is on the material, right?

I started focusing on what the First Christmas was for Jesus Christ in a way I hadn't before. I began imagining how He, as part of the Triune God, stepped into this fallen world in the most innocent and helpless manner. From an existence without physical needs and discomforts to that of hunger, thirst, pain- and of the dusty and smelly stable for His birth. From an existence of omnipotence to that of an infant totally reliant on His mommy and daddy to care for Him and His needs.

Now I am more aware of how THAT is Christmas, isn't it? Loving another so much that I step into hunger, thirst, exhaustion, pain, smell, etc. to be of service to them.

May we all feel that love in our hearts that gives legs to our Unity and Charity as Catholic Daughters!

God love you, Vickie



State Vice Regent —Mary Baer



North Dakota Catholic Daughters you are the best. I am so proud to report that the 2017 calendar raffle brought in even more than the 2016 raffle. We

made a profit of \$15,437.55 this year compared to \$14,253.50 last year. A list of the 2017 winners can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Tickets were once again mailed to everyone; remember you may purchase or sell all, some, or none of the tickets. We mail to everyone so that everyone has a chance to participate. About 450 people returned purchased tickets. I would like to give a special thanks to the 80 people that returned all 10 of their tickets sold. We had

some other high achievers: 1 person returned 12 sold tickets, 2 people returned 15 sold tickets, 1 person returned 24 sold tickets, and 1 person returned 29 sold tickets. Stupendous job ladies!

Quite a few tickets were once again returned because of wrong addresses. Perhaps it is time again for your court to request a court roster from National and update the incorrect ones. Corrections should be sent to the National office and to the North Dakota State Secretary Sue Judd. Corrections may be mailed or emailed.

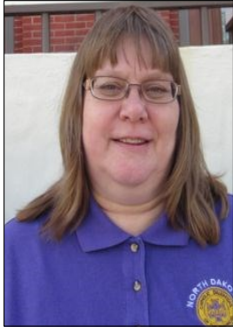
Since I am on the topic of money I would also like to commend all of you that took part in the bidding and buying of auction baskets at the 2017 State Convention. There were so many beautiful and creative baskets. The 28 baskets brought in \$2185.

The proceeds from the raffle and auction are used for charitable donations in the name of all North Dakota Catholic Daughters, traveling expenses of the state board for meetings and court visits, printing and mailing of the state newsletter, and state convention and workshop expenses.

The wonderful support shown by you the members of the State Court of North Dakota shows how working together we can accomplish great things. Remember our organization is not run by just the officers, we all play an important part in what happens within our courts. We all need to work together, we are all leaders, and we need to keep in mind our motto “In Unity and Charity”.

Mary Baer

Second Vice State Regent—Bonita Erickson



First of all, I want to send a thank you to all the North Dakota local court members for all the prayers, love, and support shown to me in the loss of my precious

mother. It was very much appreciated and helped me thru the most difficult times. I am so greatly humbled to all of you! Thank you very much!!!

Pretty soon we will be getting back to Catholic Daughters meetings, projects and fundraisers. As we begin our year with all of our goals, we first have to remember why we were created. We are created To know, To love and To serve God and others. Sometimes we forget this.

The Catholic Daughters are primary an organization serving God. It's not something we do, its something we are. We are not an organization of fund raising. We are women who raise funds to do what God has called us to do.

We must be women who know Jesus. Our service will be powerful if and only if our eyes are squarely on Him and not on ourselves. We must continue to be strong not just to serve others, but to serve God.

We don't serve because it makes us feel good. We don't serve because we want to be recognized. We serve because God calls us to serve.

We do not need to worry that our service will fall short or that we will not have the ability to do what we are called to do. We don't need to

worry we don't have the time to serve or that we don't have enough people to do the job.

We may not know why He calls us to a certain task. We just need to trust that He has a plan. Whatever He calls us to do He will empower us to do! We need to do what He calls us to do and then we need to wait on Him for the outcome. We also need to trust Him with the outcome of our service.

Women of CDA know that your God Can Do Anything!



State Secretary—Sue Judd



Hi! My name is Sue Judd and I am the new State Secretary.

When Court St. Gerard in Valley City began in June of 2003, I became a Catholic Daugh-

ter. My aunt, Marie Meath, from Fargo was a big influence for me becoming a Catholic Daughter. She shared with me things they were doing in her court and how she valued being involved in an organization with like-minded women. She loved CDA. She passed away in July of 2000 about a week after she attended the National Convention in Bismarck. She was so happy that she had been there. So, when I read in our bulletin about an organizational meeting, I knew I wanted to be a Catholic Daughter. Since then, I

have held a local office in our court every year. Like my aunt, I love CDA.

As a child, I grew up on a farm south of West Fargo and my family were members of Blessed Sacrament Parish. I have one brother and two sisters. We attended CCD classes and received our sacraments of initiation there. After I graduated from high school in 1974, I attended Valley City State to become a teacher. During my first year there, I met George Judd and we were married in July, 1976 at Holy Spirit in Fargo. My husband was a teacher and a coach, so we moved around a lot. We started in Valley City, then to Alexander, Garrison, Richardton, Thief River Falls, MN, Dickinson, and back to Valley City. I told him we made the complete circle, no more moving. While we lived in

Garrison, I commuted to Minot State University and completed my Bachelor's Degree in Education. Sadly, my husband George, passed away in May, 2015.

God blessed us with three daughters, Angela, Christiana, and Elizabeth and four grandchildren. Angela lives by Gardner, ND; Christina in Valley City; and Elizabeth in Cleveland, OH.

I am in my 14th year of being the Liturgy Coordinator for St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in Valley City and just this last spring resigned my position as teacher's aide at St. Catherine's Elementary School.

Presently I am the Financial Secretary for Court St. Gerard # 2518 and am excited to serve as your State Secretary. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) (cont. pg 8)

Local Court News



Pictured L to R: Kathy Murray, Agnes Kitzan, and REGENT Terry Walter.

Court Father Tracy # 2121, Bowman, responded to Fr. John Paul Gardners Request for assistance to purchase kitchen supplies for the ST. Bernard Catholic Mission School at Ft. Yates. As a fun way to raise funds for this purpose, the "Friendship Basket" was initiated. A basket was passed from member to member and a donation for the mission, along with a small personal gift for the next member, was placed in the basket. It was a successful project that raised \$670 for the mission school. Mann was presented with a recognition certificate and a corsage.

Langdon celebrates 50 years!



At left, Court Queen of the Prairies #1965 of Langdon, celebrated their 50th anniversary.

In Loving Remembrance

Renilda Hansen

Ida Schaeffer

Margie Decker

Mildred Perdaems

Emilia Armbrust

Mary Margaret Wolf

Sophie Sarsland



50th Biennial ND State Convention 2017

NATIONAL WINNERS



The 2017 National Award winners were announced Thursday evening at the State & Territorial Officers Conference at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belle-

ville, Illinois. I am proud to announce that North Dakota came away with three awards. Great job ladies!

We tied for 1st place with Iowa for the State Website (Laurel Ann Dukart – Webmaster)

Monica Schmitz from Harvey took 1st place in the Essay Competition Division 3 (Court Sacred Heart #1908, Harvey) (Monica's winning essay can be found below).

Margie Silbernagel from South Heart took 3rd place in the Music Competition Division 3 (Court Our Mother of Perpetual Help #2148, Belfield)

Helping The Needy Where I Live

Monica Schmitz, Harvey ND



In the past year I have learned so much about what it is like living with polio, living through the Great Depression, and what it is like having to ride horse to

school each day. I've been visiting with two wonderful people.

For Lent last year, I was pondering what I should give up and I came upon the idea of doing something I don't think many teens would do. I started to visit two people who live in the nursing home. Every Wednesday, I visited them for about a half hour. These two people do not have much

family who visits them.

After the Lenten season, I have continued to go into the nursing home to visit. Both have brought me so many smiles to my face, I absolutely love talking with them. Every week we find something different to talk about.

The older man, Marvin, was born in 1917. He lived on a farm with his parents. He had no siblings. Marvin loved horses and still does. He had a few of his own when he was young. He rode them several miles to school each day. Marvin also loves dogs very much. He has always had a dog until he had to enter the nursing home.

Marvin is such a sweet man. I've known him since I was young. We have so many interests in common. I have horses and love animals, also. During our visits, it's so fun to talk about horses, cattle, farming days, and more.

When he sees me coming, his face lights up. I can see it means a lot to him that someone cares about him. At the end of the visits, I tell him, "Marvin, I've got to get going." He tears up when I leave. He loves company so much.

The older lady I visit is Viola. Viola is the sweetest person. She suffers from polio, a disease that affects your bones and muscles and is very painful. She doesn't show her pain - she's a very tough lady. And while she was young, she lived through the Great Depression and that made life even harder for her.

When I visit her, we always find something to talk about. Whether it be the weather, animals, farming, school, etc. During her first couple of years in the home, she helped the workers fold napkins and was always willing to help them. In the

last few years, her polio has really limited her activity. She wears a leg brace because she is unable to stand without it. Viola doesn't let anything stop her, though. I love helping her in the dining room and pushing her in her wheelchair back to her room. Our conversations brighten their days and bring smiles to their faces. They need that love and company. Plus, I enjoy the time spent with them.

I've learned a lot from this. Taking an hour out of your day can make another person's day. It makes you feel good about yourself, too. I also have learned a lot of history by hearing about their childhoods.

I still continue to visit. I still love it. Who would have thought that just thirty minutes of your day would make someone else's day?

2017 CDA April Calendar Raffle Winners

April 1 \$50 Kathy Pepple, Williston, ND
April 2 \$50 Kathy Pepple, Williston, ND
April 3 \$25 Frances Jaeger, Dickinson, ND
April 4 \$25 Agnes Fettig, Bismarck, ND
April 5 \$25 Carol Stoltz, Bismarck, ND
April 6 \$25 Anna Feist, Bismarck, ND
April 7 \$25 Millie Wald, Bismarck, ND
April 8 \$50 Barb Braun, Bismarck, ND
April 9 \$50 Clara Braun, Bismarck, ND
April 10 \$25 Margaret Schumacher, Bismarck, ND
April 11 \$25 Julie A. Henderson, Bowman, ND
April 12 \$25 Therese Linnertz, East Grand Forks, MN
April 13 \$25 Coral Willer, Bismarck, ND
April 14 \$25 Marian Danzl, Bismarck, ND
April 15 \$50 Adeline Pelster, Bismarck, ND
April 16 \$50 Judy Shuhrke, Belfield, ND
April 17 \$25 Roman Ehli, Bismarck, ND
April 18 \$250 Dora Folske, Bowman, ND
April 19 \$25 Kathy Krebs, Belfield, ND
April 20 \$25 Judy Shuhrke, Belfield, ND
April 21 \$25 Diane Martin, Harvey, ND
April 22 \$50 Ron Black, Williston, ND
April 23 \$50 Adeline Pelster, Bismarck, ND
April 24 \$25 Lorri M. Lengonfelder, Bismarck, ND
April 25 \$25 Alice Huschka, Mandan, ND
April 26 \$25 Rosie Decker, Belfield, ND
April 27 \$25 Rene Syminow, Belfield, ND
April 28 \$25 Sarah Weber, Bismarck, ND
April 29 \$50 Marcella Tessier, Dickinson, ND
April 30 \$50 Connie Kasian, Belfield, ND

Congratulations to each of you!

State Workshop 100th ND State Anniversary Celebration

taken by Joan Scheett, member Ct. Marquette #677, Grand Forks



CDA Jeopardy



Renae Sticka, Past State Regent



Monica Schmitz, Harvey, ND
was the National 1st Place Essay



Virginia Koble, Past State Regent



Fr. Michael Schommer, Past State
Chaplain



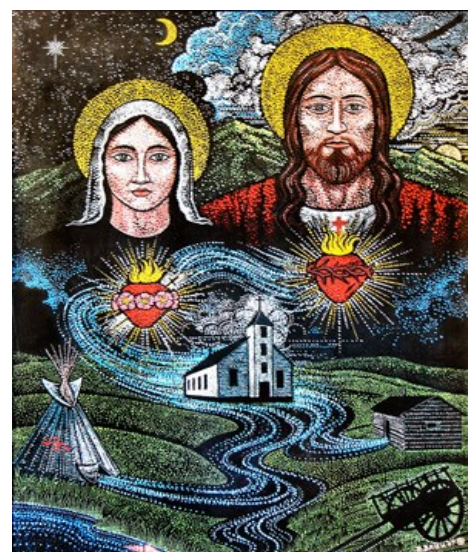
Fr. Frank Miller, State Chaplain



Kathy Kennedy, Immediate Past
State Regent



State Board / 100th ND State
Anniversary cake



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.

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ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

"THE VOICE OF CDA"

Catholic Daughters of the Americas
State Regent - Laurel Ann Dukart
POSTMASTER - Send address corrections to:
2650 26th Ave S #215
Grand Forks ND 58201

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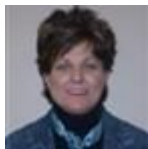


Judd , cont. from page 4

May God bless our journey together.

As a friendly reminder, please send all
your address corrections, deletions,
and monies for the State Court to me.

Thank you!! Sue



Have a Blessed Christmas
Everyone!

From the Editor, Becky Larson

Christmas symbols

Evergreen Tree: **Titus 1:2**
Eternal Life

Star & Lights: **Matthew 2: 9-10**
Star that told of Christ's birth

Candy Cane: **Luke 2: 8-9, John 10:11**
Staff of shepherds who visited the Christ
child/Christ is the good shepherd

Bells: **John 10:16**
Ring out to bring lost sheep back to the fold

Holly & Berries: **Titus 1:2, Luke 22:44**
Green = Eternal life, Red = Blood of Christ

Gift: **Matthew 2:1,11, John 3:16**
Wise men's gifts to the Christ child/God's
greatest gift to us was the Savior